



## "A Prayer in the Garden"

Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

- Our attitudes and behaviors are often influenced by our surroundings. Where or when do you feel closer to God or more receptive to God's voice?
  - A communion service
  - Easter or Christmas celebrations
  - Music or anthems
  - Mountain views or other examples of natural beauty: forests, rivers, oceans, sunsets
  - In the company of other Christians
  - In a time or place of prayer or meditation
  - When I'm working or being productive
  - Family celebrations
  - Whenever I'm in church
  - Other
- What places or circumstances seem to be negative influences for you or for your faith?
  - Wherever I'm surrounded by crude or thoughtless people
  - Situations that tempt me
  - During arguments
  - Sporting events
  - When people are acting self-righteous or when they say one thing and do another
  - When I've been hurt.
  - When I drift from my Christian commitments
  - Other
- Jesus warned the disciples to pray that they would not be tested. What might he have meant?
  - We always think we're in control, but we have no idea what lies on the road ahead of us.
  - When we're concerned about how important we are or if we're appreciated, our focus can wander from the Lord's will
  - Jesus knew that when a true time of testing comes that we're tempted to cut and run.
  - Jesus didn't want the disciples ever to have to face a burden as terrible and overwhelming as the one he was facing.
  - Jesus wanted the disciples to remain strong in their faith no matter what happened.
  - Other
- Jesus prayed that he not have to "drink from this cup;" but he refused to be disobedient. What might people today have said in this situation?
  - "This isn't fair, God. Let the sinners suffer for their own sins!"
  - "I've already done my part."
  - "Lord, I think you actually want my wife!"
  - "Can't you just produce a miracle?"
  - "Sorry, my schedule is pretty busy these next few days!"
  - "How about if I just make a donation?"
  - "Gosh, God, why can't you just stick to spiritual issues?"
  - Other
- When have you experienced your deepest sense of agony or suffering?
  - When a loved one has suffered
  - A painful disease or injury
  - The loss of someone cherished
  - A betrayal
  - Times of great uncertainty
  - Other
- If Jesus checked up on you from time to time, how often would he find you asleep?
- Why do you suppose Christ's agony was so deep and heartfelt?
  - He understood the road before him!
  - He did not want to circumvent God's plan.
  - There was no other way to pay for our sins.
  - Obedience may be simple, but it isn't easy
  - He could anticipate the full agony of being forsaken by God!
  - Physical and spiritual suffering
  - Recognizing the depth of our sin
  - Knowing the just consequences of God's wrath.
  - Other



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**Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46**

### **Matthew 26**

36 Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. When they got there, he told them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

37 Jesus took along Peter and the two brothers, James and John. He was very sad and troubled, 38 and he said to them, "I am so sad that I feel as if I am dying. Stay here and keep awake with me."

39 Jesus walked on a little way. Then he knelt with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want." 40 He came back and found his disciples sleeping. So he said to Peter, "Can't any of you stay awake with me for just one hour? 41 Stay awake and pray that you won't be tested. You want to do what is right, but you are weak."

42 Again Jesus went to pray and said, "My Father, if there is no other way, and I must suffer, I will still do what you want." 43 Jesus came back and found them sleeping again. They simply could not keep their eyes open. 44 He left them and prayed the same prayer once more.

45 Finally, Jesus returned to his disciples and said, "Are you still sleeping and resting? The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinners. 46 Get up! Let's go. The one who will betray me is already here."

### **Mark 14**

32 Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he told them, "Sit here while I pray."

33 Jesus took along Peter, James, and John. He was sad and troubled and 34 told them, "I am so sad that I feel as if I am dying. Stay here and keep awake with me."

35-36 Jesus walked on a little way. Then he knelt down on the ground and prayed, "Father, if it is possible, don't let this happen to me! Father, you can

do anything. Don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want."

37 When Jesus came back and found the disciples sleeping, he said to Simon Peter, "Are you asleep? Can't you stay awake for just one hour? 38 Stay awake and pray that you won't be tested. You want to do what is right, but you are weak."

39 Jesus went back and prayed the same prayer. 40 But when he returned to the disciples, he found them sleeping again. They simply could not keep their eyes open, and they did not know what to say.

41 When Jesus returned to the disciples the third time, he said, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough of that! The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinners. 42 Get up! Let's go. The one who will betray me is already here."

### **Luke 22**

39 Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives, as he often did, and his disciples went with him.

40 When they got there, he told them, "Pray that you won't be tested."

41 Jesus walked on a little way before he knelt down and prayed,

42 "Father, if you will, please don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want."

43 Then an angel from heaven came to help him.

44 Jesus was in great pain and prayed so sincerely that his sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood.

45 Jesus got up from praying and went over to his disciples. They were asleep and worn out from being so sad.

46 He said to them, "Why are you asleep? Wake up and pray that you won't be tested."