

## **GETHSEMANE MATTHEW 26:36-46**

### **INTRO:**

- I am not wanting to speak of the sorrows of our Savior to make us feel sorry for Him, but that we would by the grace of the Spirit of God, get a greater glimpse, and understanding and appreciation of something of the wonder of our Christ's suffering and intercession for us.
- All 4 gospels go in to much detail on this last night of Jesus with His disciples before His crucifixion.
- Gethsemane: the "olive press or oil press."
- Gethsemane was about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the walls of Jerusalem.
- Here the precious olives were pressed, crushed beneath their load and the valuable oil ran freely from their crushing
- Olive oil had four main uses in Bible days: as food, for illumination, as ointment, and in the manufacture of soap.
- Kidron Valley/ creek
- John only mentions that there was a garden there that Jesus resorted to.
- The invite to the upper room and last supper, to Gethsemane excluded followers of a shallower fellowship with Christ from those who knew Him more intimate.
- Then the inner walls of Gethsemane separated the 11 into 8 and 3. The 3 were the cream of the crop.
- Yet once more even the 3 were excluded from the inner sanctuary, the holy of holies as it were. Only the great Mediator could enter.
- There only He who was willing to drink the cup of the Fathers will could enter.
- These three, the same that accompanied Jesus up the mount of transfiguration, and again alone with Jesus to witness the raising of Jairus's daughter, were now brought up to the curtain of the holy place. Yet He continued a stone's throw further were they could not tread.
- Here Jesus must tread the olive press alone. Even the closest to Jesus, the inner small circle cannot enter. This is the deep place of redeeming intercession of our suffering Savior.
- I wonder which relational group would Jesus put me in. Where would my Christian life and practice have me placed?
- Surely this place is sacred, this place of the olive press. It is filled with a holy wonder and terror. Like Moses we must hear the voice of God, "put thy shoes off from your feet, for this place whereon you stand is holy ground."
- And like Jacob we should confess, "How dreadful is this place."
- It is of interest that about 1900 years earlier than this night, and almost in the exact location, Abraham took his son, his only son whom he loved and led him up this same mount.

- Abraham prayed or confessed his faith by saying to the others he would leave behind, you wait here for us "I and the lad will go yonder and worship alone and we will return to you.
- Certainly a foreshadowing of this night.
- Jesus, Son of God, Son of man, is led by the will of His Father alone to pray and worship, to offer Himself, the Lamb that the Father would provide,
- Jesus the goes alone, the priest, the victim, and the interceding Mediator.

### **MATTHEW 26:36-46**

#### **LET'S LOOK AT THE SAVIORS PRAYER**

- The heart of Jesus in this prayer is seen to be in subjection to the ultimate will and purpose of the Father.
- That which would finish His work on earth and seal the covenant between a holy God and man. Agreed upon by the holy trinity before the foundation of the world.
- So He prays, never the less, "Thy will be done."
- See Christ's sweet surrender to His Father, as He falls on His face and prays, "not My will but Thine be done.
- This cup Jesus mentions and illustrates in figure just hours earlier in the upper room at the last supper. (VS. 26-29)
- Did He cut the covenant between them at this time?
- The covenant that He would give His life a ransom for them and secure their justification, atonement, and redemption.
- Judas was not there.
- Notice how initially Jesus asks the 3 to remain behind and "watch."
- Watch: Give strict attention to, be cautious, to take heed lest through remission and idleness some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one.
- Then instructs them at his return to "watch and pray." True, real watching should have naturally led to prayer.

#### **LETS LOOK AT THE SAVIORS SUFFERING**

- 4 days before this night Jesus said in **John 12 23-28**, Now is my soul troubled."
- In the book of lamentations it says of Christ, " See if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.
  - "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see If there is any sorrow like my sorrow, Which has been brought on me, Which the LORD has inflicted In the day of His fierce anger. **1:12**
- **Matt. 26:37; And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.**
  - **Sorrowful**: to cause pain, or grief, to distress, grieve
  - **Deeply Distressed**: "to be troubled, much distressed, depressed"

- **38: Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death."**
  - **Exceedingly sorrowful**, an intensity of, "very sad, deeply grieved" Overcome with sorrow even to the point of causing death. To be encompassed, encircled, overwhelmed with grief.
- **Mark adds the thought of "terror." 14:33 And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed.**
  - **Troubled and deeply distressed**: "to throw into terror," "to be amazed, affrighted," to alarm thoroughly, to terrify. To be utterly prostrate with grief.
- **Spurgeon says, "O blessed Savior how can we bear to think of thee as a man astonished and alarmed? Yet was it even so when the terrors of God set themselves in array against thee."**
- **Luke 22: 44 adds; And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**
- **Became like great drops of blood.**
- **The "became like" applies to the "great drops" not to blood.**
- **It can be read, "then His bloody sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.**
- **Blood seeping from the skin-pores became clotted by their abundance causing them to fall to the ground in great drops. (Olive press.)**
  - **Agony**: to denote intense emotion, the mental distress and anxiety present on beginning a combat or contest.
  - **The greatest point of grief and anguish. It denotes severe emotional strain and anguish. A struggle for victory, a wrestling, severe mental struggles and emotions, agony and anguish.**
  - **More earnestly**; to be stretched out. Intent and earnest.
  - **Only time both are used in N.T.**
- **Notice, despite the cold, Jesus sweat. The onlookers had a fire.**
- **Jesus seems to be completely immersed in woe, no earthly comfort, no earthly place of shelter or rest, no earthly relationship to help lighten the burden. He was totally plunged into the depths of sorrow and woe.**
- **Men have no idea of what the righteous wrath of God is. (Devils tremble.)**
- **For Jesus to become sin was beyond words, we cannot plumb the depths of that horror. Only a pure and holy God truly knows the ugliness, the stench of sin, in all its pollutions and insult.**
- **Sin is the most hideous thing in the world. The fruit of sin is all of man's pains and sorrows, sicknesses and torments even hell is the result, the offspring of sin.**
- **By drinking this cup Jesus the spotless Lamb of God, God the Son would become sin for us. 2 Cor. All our iniquities were laid on Him. Isa. 53.**
- **He would experience and feel the loss of His Father's favor and fellowship, and for the only time He would know the removal of the Father's presence as He became sin.**

## **LETS LOOK AT THE SAVIORS FOE**

- Did Satan send all his demonic hosts to torment, try and test our Jesus.
- It was the fulfillment of what is prophetically recorded of Jesus in 1 Kings, 22:31 and again in 2 Chron. 18:30, "Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, *"Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel."*
- There in the garden of Gethsemane all the power and malicious temptations of satan were poured out on Him; Jesus the Lamb of God.
- See here as the serpent begins to nibble and bruise our great Deliver's heel, and the seed of the woman will this night begin to crush the serpents head.
- Did the serpent try to convince Jesus with lies, as he did in the wilderness, that His sacrifice would be for nothing.
- That is would not enough to save,
- that men in the end would not be forgiven, that His death would not bring fallen man to heaven, that He would not lead them home?
- That the devil would win man-soul back again even if Jesus won some, he, satan would pluck them out of His hand?
- No Jesus trusted all the Father had said. **Jn. 6:37-40, John 10:27-29.**
- **READ SPURGEON pg. 11**
- Here where Adam failed to the serpents wiles, our Jesus would triumph.
- Oh how the evil one tempted Him.

## **LETS LOOK AT THE SAVIORS ANSWER**

- Lk. 22:43, an angel appears from heaven and strengthens Him.
- Angels also ministered to Him after His temptation in the wilderness.
- Jesus is strengthened and crushes the serpents head.
- He had the assurance when He prayed knowing all things were possible with His Father "that He was heard. **Heb. 5:7, 8**
- Notice the answer to prayer revealed in the Saviors calmness and control when after praying and after the garden.
- He had gotten the answer and with it the victory. All would be well.
- He was still the Master in the garden, the judgment hall, the court, and on the cross and from the grave.
- In a garden man lost heaven, he was closed out from it, but in this garden Jesus opened heaven for us.
- Where once the garden of heaven or paradise was closed and guarded by a flaming sword and an seraph, Jesus in the garden has opened the way and lightened the way for us through the gospel.
- Gethdemane supplies the medicine that heals the fatal wounds of Eden, the bite and venom of the serpent, the deadly decay of leprosy.