

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Agony in the Garden**

Last time...The Lord's Prayer (John 17)

Our High Priest Jesus Christ prayed to His Father...for us!

This time...Jesus' agony in the garden of Gethsemane

The walk that began in [John 14:31](#) ends as Jesus arrives at the site of His next appointments

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 times of GREAT stress in His ministry

1. At the beginning: in the wilderness (40 days)
2. At the end: in a garden

Both were times...

- near unto death
- of intense prayer
- of great struggle as He submits to the will of the Father
- of intense demonic attack
- ending with angelic comfort and strengthening
- victory

After giving His Last Words to the 11 disciples, Jesus heads into battle in a garden

[John 14:30](#)

It is only fitting that this battle is fought in a garden!

We will start in John 18, and then move to the other 3 Gospels

### **John 18**

v1 spoken these words...a garden:

When Jesus had spoken these words...John 13-17...

He and the 11 crossed the brook Kidron...in the Kidron Valley separating the Mount of Olives and Mount Moriah/Zion... and entered a garden.

What takes place next, [Ch 17:19](#) is recorded in Mark, Matthew and Luke

Jesus will sanctify Himself (not my will be done but Your will be done) in a Garden, unlike Adam in another Garden

## **Mark 14**

v32 Between v31 and v32...John 14-17

Gethsemane...Sit...pray:

The name of the garden Jesus and His disciples walked to is Gethsemane...  
"oil press"

On the Mount of Olives, there were many olive trees and olive presses  
An olive press works by applying pressure to olive paste to separate the liquid oil  
and vegetation water from the solid material

[ pic ]

There, Jesus instructs His disciples to sit while He goes to pray...  
to continue praying (John 17)...  
because here the heavy weight of our sin begins to press upon Him

Then...

v33-34 Peter and James and John...My soul is:

Leaving the 8, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John

- fishing business partners
- Jesus' Inner Circle

a little further into the garden and confides in them about what He is enduring

What Jesus is feeling is beyond human comprehension as He starts to face

- the sin of all mankind
- the wages of sin (Is 59:1, Rom 6:23a)
- the price He must pay for that sin to be forgiven
- the undiluted attack of Satan

Jesus is feeling the pressure!

- sore amazed – utterly astonished
- very heavy – distressed, crushed by the weight of the sins of the world
- exceeding sorrowful unto death – intensely sad and grieved,  
suffering to the point of death

Is 53:3 a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief

He instructs the 3 to

1. tarry – stay, remain, endure, continue ("abide" in John 15:4)
2. watch – keep awake, be diligent (spiritually)

We do not, cannot, nor will we ever know/experience what Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane, but this world has “treated” us to some

- intense pressures
- great distresses
- soul-crushing grief

We will never know the magnitude of what Jesus felt,  
but He knows what we feel/felt!

Heb 2:14-18 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on *him the nature of angels*; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin.

v35 forward a little...prayed:

Jesus now leaves the 3 behind and continues on into the garden alone to pray

His prayer: To have this whole thing go away, if possible

Several days earlier, John 12:27-32

The pressure in “oil press” is mounting on Jesus, “troubled” is greatly magnified!

John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me

But now an unfathomable amount of pressure is on Jesus

His prayer continues

v36 Nevertheless:

Abba Father...an intense appeal and intimate plea

all things are possible unto You...all things right and true and just

take away...remove

this cup...

- of suffering and violent death  
Matt 20:22
- of the Father's wrath for the sins of the world...the cup of trembling

Is 51:17, 21-22

Rev 14:9-10 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation

Rev 16:17-19 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath

Someone is going to drink the cup of the offended God's wrath –  
either Jesus Christ for whosoever believes  
or the unbelieving sinner

nevertheless...regardless of what I just asked

not what I will but what You will...not what I want/desire but what You want

- sanctification, John 17:19
- remaining true and faithful to His mission

What does the Father want?

- To glorify His name (John 12:28)
- To glorify His Son (John 17:1, Phil 2:8-11)
- Man's worship and fellowship (Ps 22:22-31)
- The rebellion quashed and all things under the feet of His King  
(Gen 3:15, Ps 2, Rev 5:1-10)

And there is only One Way for the Father to have all He wants;  
there is NO other way!

Dan 9:26a	Messiah executed for the sins of others
Is 53:10-12	Messiah His sin sacrifice for the sins of mankind
Gal 3:13	Christ made a curse for us
2 Cor 5:21	sinless Christ made sin
Acts 4:12	none other name under heaven whereby we must be saved
John 14:6	

Thus...Jesus submits to the will of the Father...Matt 16:24 in action

v37-38 sleeping...Watch and pray...spirit...flesh:

After Round 1 of 3 in the “oil press”, Jesus returns to the 3 He told to watch,  
keep awake and diligent, and finds them...sleeping

He addresses...proud boastful Peter (v29-31)  
Jesus calls him Simon, not Peter/”rock”; the proud disciple is not being very  
“rock”-like

And Jesus is speaking to all 3

Could you (plural) not keep awake one hour...not even for a short period  
of time

Watch...He repeats His instructions to stay awake and be spiritually  
diligent

pray...You need God’s help in this hour too

lest you (plural) enter into temptation...lest you be proved/tested, too  
(Remember v30, Peter)

The spirit truly is ready...willing, predisposed to obey

but the flesh is weak...wants to but is unable, without strength to obey  
This is a spiritual test, not a physical test

Is Jesus speaking to us also?

Have we ever fallen asleep while praying?  
Prayer is spiritual work, resisted by the flesh and the devil

How often have we wanted to obey the Word of God...but don’t?  
Obedience is walking in the Spirit, rather than in the flesh

The flesh is weak in the things of God  
(but very strong in the things of sin, things opposed to God)

In this scene, I also see a picture of the Church today – asleep in the very intense  
and perilous hours just before a monumental Day of the Lord  
The danger of the last days church: complacency-induced sleep

v39-40 again He went away...same words...asleep again:  
Jesus for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time leaves the 3 behind to continue the battle in the garden  
Sanctifying Himself again, He returns after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round to Peter, James, and  
John

Again, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak  
Fatigued, they simply cannot keep their eyes open  
When Jesus wakes them up again, they are speechless, without excuse

v41a third time:  
Jesus came again, meaning He left again...Round 3  
A model of perseverance and persistence in prayer

When He comes back to PJ&J, their Good Shepherd speaks tenderly:  
“Sleep, get some rest.”

In KJV, with English punctuation, after rest we see a colon (“:”),  
signifying a break in time

While PJ&J slept, Jesus watched over them  
A very tender scene!

Ps 103:8, 13-14      The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and  
plenteous in mercy...Like as a father pitieth *his* children, *so*  
the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our  
frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust

Ps 127:2              *It is* vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the  
bread of sorrows: *for* so he giveth his beloved sleep

The importance of restful sleep  
The symptoms of poor sleep and depression are the same

v41b the hour is come:

After an unrecorded period of time of that very tender scene, Jesus speaks,  
waking up His disciples

It is enough...time to wake up, children

The hour is at hand...it's Go Time

The Son of Man is betrayed...time for Me to be betrayed, just as I have  
been foretelling for several years, as recently as this night

into the hands of sinners...those opposed to the will of My Father –  
Jews, Gentiles, mankind

v42 Rise up:

Wake up, let's go

My betrayer is nearby

## **Matt 26**

v36-41 with Me:

Matthew's record reads very much like Mark's, with 3 notable differences

1. v37 – the two sons of Zebedee vs James and John

2. v38 and v40 – with Me

Jesus is seeking the support of His closest disciples and the  
comfort of their nearness

3. v39 – fell on His face vs on the ground

Jesus fell forward, not backward as will His betrayer and enemies  
(John 18:6)

Now, another major difference in Matthew's record of Round 2

v42 except I drink it:

Jesus' words sound like

- submission/resignation/surrender to the Father's will  
(Matt 6:10 in action)
- the battle is won

v43-46 let us be going:

Again, Matthew's record echoes Mark's

## Luke 22

v39 as He was wont:

When Jesus and the 11 left the Upper Room to walk to the garden of Gethsemane, they were going to a place they went every night of this last week of Jesus' ministry, as we will see next week when Judas shows up (John 18:1-2)

Jesus and His disciples were accustomed to coming to this place...  
but this night is radically different than the previous nights

v40-41 kneeled down:

In Luke's record, there is no mention of PJ&J being called further into the Garden as in Matthew's and Mark's

Jesus went alone about a stone's throw from His disciples  
How far is that?  
Well, how heavy is the stone and who is doing the throwing?  
Let's go with a short distance

Luke records that Jesus kneeled down, which is different than falling

- to the ground (Mark)
- on His face (Matthew)

Is this a contradiction in the Word of God?

No. Different pieces of the puzzle, different segments of time

Jesus started by kneeling down, bowing and humbling Himself  
Then He fell forward onto His face as the pressure mounted  
Then He lay prostrate on the ground when the pressure "pressed" Him

v42 Saying, Father:

Jesus sanctifying Himself (John 17:19) is recorded in all 3 Synoptic Gospels  
Is this Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> prayer?  
Does it matter?

v43-44 an angel...great drops of blood:



Now some information not recorded in the other Gospels about Jesus' "pressing" in the garden:

1. Agony and intensity

Jesus was in agony, a very intense word for anguish and struggle, which we cannot fathom, it is beyond our comprehension

Heb 5:7-9

2. Jesus sweat "like" great drops of blood  
"clots"

Bloody sweat

Anybody been pressed so hard that you had bloody sweat?

3. An angel, strengthening Jesus

Just like the end of the other time of great stress...Matt 4:11

The Father sends a ministering spirit (Heb 1:13-14) to His Son to strengthen and encourage Him

No answer to Jesus' prayers from the Father is recorded;

The cup is not removed but strength is given

Fulfillment of the "agonizing" psalms of David

v45-46 sleeping for sorrow:

Still more information recorded by Dr. Luke – the "flesh weak" disciples were sleeping for sorrow...sadness, heaviness, emotionally exhausted/drained by this night

The test/"pressing" in Gethsemane was not too severe for Jesus, but it was for His disciples

### **Application**

This passage of Scripture has very important personal application for us as Jesus' disciples  
Let's return to Mark 14 to consider some

1. v35-36 It takes greater faith to submit to the will of the Father than it does to ask Him to
- heal me or a loved one
  - provide for our material needs
  - do for us what we cannot do for ourselves

It is fine to pour out our hearts and tell our Father what we want, but in the end we must submit to His will (the process of sanctification)

After all, Is 55:8-9

2. v37

1 Cor 9:24-27

Tarry/stay/remain/endure/continue..."with Me" (Matt 26:38, 40)

We are not alone (Heb 13:5) and Jesus desires our nearness!

Watch...be spiritually diligent and awake

Don't fall asleep in these perilous times

Pray...we need God's help and our focus must be on Him

3. v38

Self-examination:

If I gave the effort

(energy, time, timeliness, loyalty, devotion)

to my job that I give to the Lord

(prayer, study, meditate, worship, fellowship),

would I have a job?

If I worshipped the Lord with the same effort I put into my job, how much stronger would be my walk with the Lord?

4. v42a

Rise up, wake up!

Rom 13:11-14

Fear not, march forward into the spiritual battle (that belongs to the Lord)

This is no time to indulge the flesh!

Russia/Iran/Turkey invasion of Israel is on the near horizon!

Jesus coming in the clouds to meet His Bride is imminent!

Be ready, do not be ashamed at His coming!

Therefore, we disciples need...discipline

- Devoted in prayer
- Devoted to the Word (2 Tim 2:15)
- Devoted to witness (1 Peter 3:15)

And we have a Helper/Comforter...the indwelling Spirit of truth

To the unbeliever: If your life is falling apart and the world is crushing you, come to the One Who has overcome the world and wants to give you victory, peace, rest