

GUIDED BY GOD

Guidance at Gethsemane, Matthew 26:36-46

We Will Come to Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-46 (KJV) ³⁶ ***Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane,***

- Judas has already begun His plot of betrayal against Jesus
- Jesus comes to a place called Gethsemane
- Gethsemane means oil-press or olive press
- Jesus was in a pressing, critical situation where He needs an answer, a solution, direction
- Gethsemane was symbolic of Jesus having His fleshly desires crushed so that He can find the strength to do God's will
- Gethsemane was also a place of *preparation*

Lessons from Gethsemane

- We are not exempt from coming to Gethsemane
- The goal of our Gethsemane is to crush our will so that we can do God's will
- We don't realize at the time, but God is using the pressing issues of our Gethsemane as a place of *preparation*
- We are pressed and crushed by the situation we're in, but it will *produce* fresh oil that will bless our life and the lives of others

We Need Friends at Gethsemane

"...and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. ³⁷ And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. ³⁸ Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me."

- Jesus went to Gethsemane with His disciples
- It was an extremely difficult time in Jesus' life, and He wanted His disciples to be with Him, especially Peter, James and John
- The situation Jesus was facing had Him nearly at the point of death
- Jesus was distressed at the spiritual wrath of God that awaited Him
- Jesus asked His friends to stay with Him and keep watch with Him

Lessons from Gethsemane

- We need friends like Peter, James and John who will be with us in tough times
- We need friends to pray for us and be with us in pressing times

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- We need to be humble enough to ask others to help us

Pray to God at Gethsemane

³⁹ ***And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed,***

- Even though Jesus had friends to pray with Him and comfort Him, Jesus still had to *separate* from friends and be with God alone
- His emotions are heavy, He sees the road that leads to the agony of the cross
- Jesus literally fell on His face and prayed
- The pressure, the weight, the burden of the cross was unbearable, and it drove Jesus to pray
- Jesus calls on God in prayer by name, *Abba* Father (Mark 14:36), that's like you and I calling our father "daddy"

Lessons from Gethsemane

- There will be times we must separate from friends and go to God alone in prayer
- Times of support and prayer with friends *is not* a substitute for prayer alone with God
- We need a relationship and faith in God where we can call Him "daddy"

Expect a Struggle at Gethsemane

saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

- Jesus is struggling human nature and God's divine nature
- There was a struggle between Jesus' flesh or human will to escape or avoid the cup
- There was also a struggle between Jesus' divine nature to not do as He willed, but as God willed
- Jesus asks God to let this *cup* pass from Him
- The cup Jesus was referring to was the cup of God's judgment and separation from God
- The struggle was between what Jesus desired and God desired
- Jesus was willing to do God's will, not my will but thy will be done matter what

Lessons from Gethsemane

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- There will be a struggle between what we want and what God wants for our lives
- Whatever the struggle is, take it to God in prayer
- We must learn to surrender to God's divine will, just as Jesus did
- Every one of will have a private Gethsemane where we must learn to say, "Thy will be done"

Sometimes Friends are Struggling, Too

⁴⁰ And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak... ⁴³ And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy....⁴⁵ Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

- Every time Jesus returned from praying; He found His disciples sleeping
- But watching and praying prepares to see temptation coming
- Jesus told them the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak
- By not staying alert and praying, the disciples were depending on their own wisdom and strength, and it showed they didn't view prayer as important

Lessons from Gethsemane

- Prayer is vital when we are praying others as well as ourselves
- When we watch and pray demonstrate trust and dependence on God
- When we watch and pray, we see danger in advance ***1 Peter 5:8 (KJV) 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:***

Persevere in Prayer at Gethsemane

⁴² He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. ⁴⁴ And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

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- Jesus didn't just pray one time, but Jesus labored, agonized in prayer
- He went to God a 2nd and 3rd time saying to God if there was another way to pay the price for the sins of the world
- Jesus was not asking to avoid death, but to avoid being *separated* from God
- If the cross as the only way, Jesus continued to say, "Thy will be done"
- Jesus teaches us by example to asking, praying and persevering until God answers ***Matthew 7:7 (KJV) 7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:***
- Jesus *drank* the cup at Calvary, but He *decided* to drink it at Gethsemane

Lessons from Gethsemane

- Jesus kept praying until He got His answer, so should we
- Prayer is work
- We learn obedience to God's will in prayer
- Victory at our Gethsemane, makes way for future victories