

“IN GETHSEMANE” (NOT ALONE)

(Luke 22:36-46)

“Oh, what wondrous love I see, freely shown for you & me, by the One who did atone! Just to show His matchless grace, Jesus suffered for the race, in Gethsemane alone. Oh what love, matchless love. Oh what love for me was shown! His forever I will be for the love He gave to me, when He suffered all alone.”

A. **Gethsemane** (gheth-say-man-ay') – A garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives.

1. The name is derived from two Aramaic words: *gath*, a **press**, & *shemen*, **oil**.
2. Gethsemane was a place where the produce of the Mount of Olives was prepared for use.
 - a. Garden of the oil-press, olive-press.
3. How fitting a name considering that in that garden Jesus was pressed by anxiety over His fate & concern for His disciples – “**Gethsemane**” is a synonym for adversity.

B. At Gethsemane, we are allowed to see the most moving event recorded in Scripture.

1. We see a struggle between the human & the divine nature of our Lord.
 - a. Jesus showed us HOW the two can coexist in the physical body.
 - b. Peter explained that this is what God expects from you & I (2 Pet 1:2-4).
2. But in order for the divine nature of Jesus to shine through, He had to overcome some powerful human emotions.
 - a. He was “*sorrowful & deeply distressed*” (Matt 26:37).
 - b. Jesus put words to those emotions when He said, “*My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death*” (Matt 26:38).

Sorrowful – to dissolve the natural vigor, & threatens to separate soul & body

Deeply distressed, Heavy (kiv) – denotes the most extreme anguish that the soul can feel; excruciating anxiety & torture of spirit.

- c. He was in such “*agony*” that His sweat became like drops of blood (Lk 22:44).

C. Now that we have set the stage, look into your own life – we have Gethsemanes too.

Job 14:1-2 – Man who is born of woman is of few days & **full of trouble**. 2 He comes forth like a flower & fades away; He flees like a shadow & does not continue.

Rom 9:2-3 – I have **great sorrow** and continual grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh...

2 Kings 20:1-2 – In those days Hezekiah was **sick & near death**. And Isaiah the prophet...went to him & said to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die, & not live.’” 2 Then he turned his face toward the wall, & prayed to the LORD, saying, 3 “Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth & with a loyal heart, & have done what was good in Your sight.” And Hezekiah **wept bitterly**.

[**Whatever** our “Gethsemane” is, we learn from the example Jesus showed us in His “Gethsemane”.]

I. JESUS TURNED TO HIS FRIENDS

Matt 26:36-38 – Then Jesus came with **them** [the eleven] to a place called Gethsemane, & said to the **disciples**, “Sit here while I go & pray over there.” 37 And He took with Him **Peter & the two sons of Zebedee**, & He began to be sorrowful & deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. **Stay here & watch with Me.**”

A. When Jesus went through His “Gethsemane”, He wanted to be with His friends.

1. He knew that of all people **they** could sustain Him through His ordeal.
2. And He had **three friends** He trusted with His innermost thoughts.

B. There are 2 aspects to the friendships of Jesus that helped Him face His adversity.

1. They were the right friends (**disciples**).

2. He worked to build these friendships {explain}.

Prov 18:24 (nkjv) – A man who has friends must himself *be friendly*, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

* **Prov 18:24** (nasu) – A man of too many friends comes to ruin, but *there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother*.

What advantage do we gain by having the right friends?

Prov 17:17 – A *friend loves at all times*, & a brother is born for adversity.

[**What** a tremendous blessing from heaven friends can be if we have chosen Christian friends, & if we have tried to build a deep relationship of trust with those people.

Not only did Jesus *turn* to His friends in His “Gethsemane”, He was also *concerned* about them.]

II. JESUS WAS CONCERNED FOR HIS FRIENDS

Matt 26:41 (Jesus had been off by Himself praying, & when He returned to Peter, James & John, He found them sleeping) – *Watch & pray, lest you enter into temptation*. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

A. Jesus took His mind off of His severe trial to help His friends.

1. His admonition is embedded in the conscience of most of us – *what an important truth to remember!*

B. Often we can't see beyond our own problems to be any help to others.

1. As we magnify our own problems, the problems of others seem not to exist.

[**But** if we truly want to lighten our burden, the way to go about it is to show an interest & concern in the spiritual welfare of another – as Jesus did.

But Jesus wasn't just wrapped up in His friendships; in His “Gethsemane” He went to His Father in prayer.]

III. JESUS PRAYED TO HIS FATHER

Luke 22:41, 43-44 – And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, & **He knelt down & prayed**, [skip verse 42 for now] 43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony, **He prayed more earnestly**. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Heb 5:7 – who, in the days of His flesh, when **He had offered up prayers & supplications**, with vehement [loud, strong] cries & tears **to Him who was able to save Him from death**, & was heard because of His godly fear,

A. The “Gethsemane” of Jesus was an adversity of immense magnitude.

1. There was no family member, friend or even angel that could have pulled Him through it.
2. And if the Son of God needed to pray to His Father at such a time, how much more do we?

B. Jesus strongly implied that we cannot endure the trials of our faith without prayer.

1. The parable of the persistent widow was given in the context of the destruction of Jerusalem.

- a. “You ought to always pray & not lose heart [when that time comes].” (Lk 18:1).

2. James wrote, when you suffer, pray (Jas 5:13).

Jas 5:16 (amp) – The **earnest** (heartfelt, continued) **prayer** of a righteous man **makes tremendous power available** [dynamic in its working]

Eph 3:20 – Now to **Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to **the power that works in us**.

[It’s overwhelming to consider the fact that such power is given to the children of God.

We have the same power available to us that Jesus had – in His “Gethsemane” – to aid us in overcoming our trials.

Do we use that power, or do we trust in family & friends?

George Scruen (HFW #69) – “O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.”]

IV. JESUS ACCEPTED HIS FATHER'S WILL

Luke 22:41-42 – He knelt down & prayed 42 saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless *not My will, but Yours, be done.*”

A. When Jesus went through His “Gethsemane”, He placed His desire beneath His Father’s will.

B. When we suffer, we think it should be God’s will to make the source of our pain go away.

1. We don’t often stop to think that He has a purpose in allowing some pain (**Jas 1:2-3**).
2. If God had answered the prayer of Jesus according to His first request – we would have no Savior & no Hope!
3. So Jesus did not insist that His Father change His will to gratify the feelings of His Son.

4. In fact, Jesus prepared Himself to accept the inevitable – God’s Will Shall Be Done!

Rom 15:3 – For *even Christ did not please Himself*, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”

Why did He NOT please Himself?

Rom 8:28 – And we know that *all things work together for good to those who love God*, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

CLOSING

A. We can all expect some “Gethsemane (s)” in our lives – some may be around a lifetime.

1. But we have the Lord’s examples of how to handle those difficulties – and we can be led to victory through them & despite them.

2 Cor 2:14 – Now *thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ*, & through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

1 John 5:4-5 – For *whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.* 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes [**continues to believe**] that Jesus is the Son of God?
