



GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Matthew 26:36-46 NLT: Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “**Sit here while I go over there to pray.**” He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them, “**My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.**” He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “**My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.**” Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “**Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!**” Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “**My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.**” When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. Then he came to the disciples and said, “**Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!**”

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

This week our travels are taking us to the beautiful Garden of Gethsemane - one of the most famous places in the world. This Garden, located on the Mount of Olives, was a place that Jesus and His disciples used frequently as a place to retreat from the crowds. The word Gethsemane actually means “olive press” and it was in this location that the olives were pressed or crushed 3 different times in order to get the purest form of olive oil that was to be used in the Temple. The olive oil was used to provide “Light” and to “Anoint” the Priests and Kings of Israel. This is an interesting detail to keep in mind as we look at what took place in this Garden on the night that Jesus was betrayed and arrested. We can learn a great deal about how to deal with difficult times in our lives by seeing how Jesus dealt with this difficult time in His life.

Read John 11:45-53:

1A) What do these verses reveal about what the religious leaders thought about Jesus and why?

1B) How do these verses reveal that everything that happened was a fulfillment of God’s plan?

2A) The first thing we see in the Garden that night is the Prayers of Jesus. What did Jesus tell His Disciples about the way we should or should not pray in Matthew 6:5-8?

2B) He gave them a model prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 that we call the Lord’s Prayer. Use the acrostic PRAY to describe the parts of this prayer.

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

- 3A) Using our focus passage, how do the prayers of Jesus in the Garden utilize this same acrostic?
What is similar or different?
- 3B) PERSONAL: Some people wonder why we should pray if God already knows what is going on, but how are you encouraged to pray, because you know that Jesus spent a lot of time praying?
- 4A) In John 13, we find that during the Last Supper, Jesus gave several predictions. He predicted that He would be betrayed and by whom, and He predicted that Peter would deny Him 3 times. What did Jesus say in John 13:19?
- 4B) What new command did He give His Disciples - and us - in John 13:34-35?
- 5) After His time of Prayer in the Garden, He was filled with Peace and Prepared for God's Will to be carried out. How do the following verses confirm that we can have this same type of peace?
John 14:27:

John 16:33:

Philippians 4:6-7:
- 6) God sent His Son Jesus into the world to accomplish His Purpose. What do the following verses tell us about the Purpose He was sent here to fulfill?
John 1:29:

Luke 19:10:

John 3:17:
- 7A) Just as Jesus gave us the example of how to pray, and the gift of His Peace, He also gave us a Purpose to fulfill. What is our purpose?
Matthew 28:19-20:

Acts 1:8:

Acts 4:29:
- 7B) PERSONAL: What are you doing to fulfill this purpose?

ACT: In the midst of this ongoing pandemic and the difficult times of chaos, unrest, and violence, we may all feel a lack of peace and inability to know how we're going to be able to fulfill our purpose. Jesus showed us that we can trust our lives - both the present and the future to God. His Plan and His Purpose will be fulfilled and we can follow the example Jesus gave us by surrendering our will to God through Prayer, so that He can guard our hearts and minds with His Peace, and then we will have the Strength to fulfill all that God has called us to do and to accomplish His Purpose for our lives. Above all we know that God can work all things together for our good and His Glory!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's look at passages that describe the Peace that God alone provides for us.

Monday:

Psalm 29:11 NLT

The Lord gives his people strength. The Lord blesses them with peace.

Tuesday:

Isaiah 26:3 NLT

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Wednesday:

Isaiah 32:16-17 NLT

Justice will rule in the wilderness and righteousness in the fertile field. And this righteousness will bring peace. Yes, it will bring quietness and confidence forever.

Thursday:

Luke 1:77-79 NLT

You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."

Friday:

Romans 5:1 NLT

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Saturday:

Colossians 3:15 NLT

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Sunday:

1 Peter 3:11 NLT

Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

