

**God With Us**  
"Prayer at Gethsemane"  
Matthew 26:36-46

*"Then He said to them, My soul is very sorrowful, even to death, remain here and watch with me." (Matthew 26:38)*

**I. The Place Called Gethsemane**

- a. At the Mount of Olives was a private garden where Jesus often used as a retreat (John 18:2).
  1. *Gethsemane* means "oil press"
- b. Jesus left eight of the disciples at the garden entrance, while Peter, James and John went further.
- c. This was the third time Jesus separated the same three disciples from the group.
  1. Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1); Jairus' home (Luke 8:49)

**II. The Sleepy Watchmen**

- a. Why did Jesus want His friends near?
- b. Peter and the other disciples promised to be faithful to death, but they went to sleep!
- c. They all failed during their time of prayer, but the Lord succeeded.

**III. Our Lord's Sorrow**

- a. We must not think that it was fear of death that made Jesus agonize in the garden.
- b. To "drink the cup" referred to the bearing on His body the sins of the world.
- c. Earlier Jesus shared a cup with the disciples, but now He must drink this cup alone.
- d. Many Christians have been arrested, beaten and killed because of their faith. Only Jesus experienced being "made sin" and a curse for mankind. (Read 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13)
- e. The Gethsemane experience teaches us that Jesus chose to show His humanity completely.
- f. Jesus prayed with such intensity that blood dropped from His brow. (Luke 22:44)

**IV. Lessons to be Learned**

- a. This text should inform us that prayer means a great deal to Jesus.
- b. The most crucial and demanding action in the world's history had to be rooted in prayer. Prayer is necessary even when the hard times seem impossible.
- c. It teaches us the value of shared prayer.
- d. We learn there is value in repeated prayer. Jesus himself prays three times for the same thing.
  1. This prayer is not like the 'many words' of the pagans, who "babble". It showed God we mean business.
  2. To keep on praying indicates both determination and confidence,
- e. The prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane shows that we can be close to God, live a holy life, and pray with faith, and expectancy, and yet not get what we ask for.
- f. *Not as I will but as You will.* If you truly walk with Christ, by faith long enough, you also will speak these words.
- g. God will set His children in fields to plow rock and to cast their bread upon the waters.
  1. Jonah carried a message to Nineveh.
- h. There are ministers who have been preaching for years, yet they do not see souls converted.
- i. If we can pray this prayer. "Not as I will, but as You will," we will be ready to serve God anywhere and everywhere, as long as we know that we are doing His will!