



Lesson 63 - Gethsemane

Based on Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-12.

In company with His disciples, the Saviour slowly made His way to the garden of Gethsemane. The Passover moon, broad and full, shone from a cloudless sky. The city of pilgrims' tents was hushed into silence.

1) What was the normal situation for Jesus?

John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me _____; for I do always those things that please him.

Now He seemed to be shut out from the light of God's sustaining presence. Now He was numbered with the transgressors. The guilt of fallen humanity He must bear. Upon Him who knew no sin must be laid the iniquity of us all. So dreadful does sin appear to Him, so great is the weight of guilt which He must bear, that He is tempted to fear it will shut Him out forever from His Father's love.

2) How was he feeling at that point?

Matthew 26:38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding _____, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Every step that He now took was with labored effort. He groaned aloud, as if suffering under the pressure of a terrible burden. Twice His companions supported Him, or He would have fallen to the earth.

3) What did Mark have to say about it?

Mark 14:32-33 And they came to a place which was named _____: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall _____. And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

With Peter, James, and John, He entered its secluded recesses. These three disciples were Christ's closest companions. They had beheld His glory on the mount of transfiguration; they had seen Moses and Elijah talking with Him; they had heard the voice from heaven; now in His great struggle, Christ desired their presence near Him.

4) How did Zechariah describe the Saviour's misery?

Zechariah 13:7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be _____: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

In the wilderness of temptation, the destiny of the human race had been at stake. Christ was then conqueror. Now the tempter had come for the last fearful struggle. For this he had been preparing during the three years of Christ's ministry. Everything was at stake with him. If he failed here, his hope of mastery was lost; the kingdoms of the world would finally become Christ's; he himself would be overthrown and cast out. But if Christ could be overcome, the earth would become Satan's kingdom, and the human race would be forever in his power.

Satan told Jesus that if He became the surety for a sinful world, the separation would be eternal. He would be identified with Satan's kingdom and would nevermore be one with God.



In its hardest features Satan pressed the situation upon the Redeemer: The people who claim to be above all others in temporal and spiritual advantages have rejected You. They are seeking to destroy You, the foundation, the center and seal of the promises made to them as a peculiar people. One of Your own disciples, who has listened to Your instruction, and has been among the foremost in church activities, will betray You. One of Your most zealous followers will deny You. All will forsake You. Christ's whole being abhorred the thought. That those whom He had undertaken to save, those whom He loved so much, should unite in the plots of Satan, this pierced His soul.

5) In Christ's agony, what did He do?

Mark 15:35-36 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might _____ from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what _____.

The One who had always had words of sympathy for them was now suffering superhuman agony, and He longed to know that they were praying for Him and for themselves. How dark seemed the malignity of sin! Terrible was the temptation to let the human race bear the consequences of its own guilt, while He stood innocent before God. If He could only know that His disciples understood and appreciated this, He would be strengthened.

6) What condition were they in?

Mark 15:37-38 And he cometh, and findeth them _____, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is _____.

Had He found them praying, He would have been relieved. Had they been seeking refuge in God, that satanic agencies might not prevail over them, He would have been comforted by their steadfast faith. But they had not heeded the repeated warning.

They did not intend to forsake their Lord, but they seemed paralyzed by a stupor which they might have shaken off if they had continued pleading with God.

7) What had Jesus told them earlier that night?

Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be _____ because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

8) How did Peter reply?

Mark 14:29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will _____.

The disciples trusted to themselves. They did not look to the mighty Helper as Christ had counseled them to do. Thus, when the Saviour was most in need of their sympathy and prayers, they were found asleep. Even Peter was sleeping.

9) What had James and John previously said they could do?

Matthew 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to _____ of the _____ that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.



Should Jesus now put to James and John the question He had once asked them, ***“Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”*** they would not have ventured to answer,

10) When they awoke, what did Jesus counsel them?

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is _____.

The weakness of His disciples awakened the sympathy of Jesus. He feared that they would not be able to endure the test which would come upon them in His betrayal and death.

11) How was Jesus' body responding to the stress?

Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of _____ falling down to the ground.

The cypress and palm trees were the silent witnesses of His anguish. From their leafy branches dropped heavy dew upon His stricken form, as if nature wept over its Author wrestling alone with the powers of darkness.

12) What resignation did Christ come to?

Matthew 26:42 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 _____ be done.

He had approached the consummation of His work a conqueror, having at each step gained the victory over the powers of darkness. As one already glorified, He had claimed oneness with God. In unfaltering accents He had poured out His songs of praise. He had spoken to His disciples in words of courage and tenderness. Now had come the hour of the power of darkness. Now His voice was heard on the still evening air, not in tones of triumph, but full of human anguish.

13) What did the Disciples have to say about it?

Mark 14:40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to _____ him.

His presence aroused them. They saw His face marked with the bloody sweat of agony, and they were filled with fear. His anguish of mind they could not understand.

14) What prophecy of Isaiah came true that night?

Isaiah 52:14 As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so _____ more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

15) What did Jesus do a third time?

Mark 14:39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the _____.

The awful moment had come that moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. The fate of humanity trembled in the balance. Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man. It was not yet too late. He might wipe the bloody sweat from His brow and leave man to perish in his iniquity. He might say, Let the transgressor receive the penalty of his sin, and I will go back to My Father. Will the Son of God drink the bitter cup of humiliation and agony? Will the innocent suffer the consequences of the curse of sin, to save the guilty?



The words fall tremblingly from the pale lips of Jesus, ***“O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.”***

Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself.

16) What did Jesus say to the sleeping Disciples?

Matthew 26:45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your _____: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Christ's agony did not cease, but His depression and discouragement left Him. The storm had in nowise abated, but He who was its object was strengthened to meet its fury. He came forth calm and serene. A heavenly peace rested upon His bloodstained face. He had borne that which no human being could ever bear; for He had tasted the sufferings of death for every man.

17) Who ministered to Messiah while the Disciples slept?

Luke 22:43 And there appeared an _____ unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

The sleeping disciples had been suddenly awakened by the light surrounding the Saviour. They saw the angel bending over their prostrate Master. They saw him lift the Saviour's head upon his bosom and point toward heaven. They heard his voice, like sweetest music, speaking words of comfort and hope. The disciples recalled the scene upon the mount of transfiguration. They remembered the glory that in the temple had encircled Jesus, and the voice of God that spoke from the cloud. Now that same glory was again revealed, and they had no further fear for their Master.

18) What did Jesus tell them next?

Matthew 26:46 Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth _____ me.

19) What did Jesus say to the mob that was amassing around Him?

John 18:4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom _____ ye?

20) What happened while they answered Him?

John 18:5-6 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. _____ saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went _____, and fell to the ground.

The angel who had lately ministered to Jesus moved between Him and the mob. A divine light illuminated the Saviour's face, and a dovelike form overshadowed Him. In the presence of this divine glory, the murderous throng could not stand for a moment. They staggered back. Priests, elders, soldiers, and even Judas, fell as dead men to the ground.

21) Did Jesus run? _____



The angel withdrew, and the light faded away. Jesus had opportunity to escape, but He remained, calm and self-possessed. As one glorified He stood in the midst of that hardened band, now prostrate and helpless at His feet. The disciples looked on, silent with wonder and awe.

22) What happened next?

John 18:7-8 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus _____, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these _____ their way:

23) What was the sign was given to the mob on whom to arrest?

Matthew 26:48-49 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall _____, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, _____; and kissed him.

This appeal should have aroused the conscience of the betrayer and touched his stubborn heart; but honor, fidelity, and human tenderness had forsaken him. He stood bold and defiant, showing no disposition to relent. He had given himself up to Satan, and he had no power to resist him. Jesus did not refuse the traitor's kiss.

24) How did Peter react?

John 18:10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right _____. The servant's name was Malchus.

25) Jesus replied:

Luke 22:51 And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and _____ him.

26) Jesus continued:

Luke 22:52-53 Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a _____, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no _____ against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

The disciples were terrified as they saw Jesus permit Himself to be taken and bound. They were offended that He should suffer this humiliation to Himself and them. They could not understand His conduct, and they blamed Him for submitting to the mob. In their indignation and fear, Peter proposed that they save themselves. Following this suggestion, ***“they all forsook Him, and fled.”*** But Christ had foretold this desertion, ***“Behold,”*** He had said, ***“the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave Me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.”***

Can you see we are not as strong as we think?

Would you like to have courage in the storm?

When is the time to watch and pray?