

Luke 22:39-46
Jesus Suffers in the Garden of Gethsemane

Introduction: When Jesus has completed John 14, He leaves the upper room. As they walk from the SW corner of the city to the NE corner, Jesus teaches through John 15-16, and then prays John 17. During this time Judas has gone to get the authorities, perhaps seeking to lead them to the upper room in the SW corner of Jerusalem. Not finding them, he heads to where he assumes Jesus will take the Eleven (John 18:2).

- 1) **Jesus deliberately follows His normal habits—22:39**
 - a) Jesus leads them to Gethsemane—³⁹ *And having departed, He proceeded according to His custom, to the Mount of Olives,*
 - i) Jesus planned this so that He would be arrested apart from the crowds.
 - ii) John remarks that Jesus had to step over the Brook Kidron (18:1)
 - iii) Bookman says it this way: The disciples must have been dumbfounded as they followed their Lord out into the blackness of the Jerusalem night. As they hastened down the flank of the western hill, across the Valley of the Cheesemakers, over the hill of David just to the south of the great second temple, and then across the Kidron toward the Mount of Olives, Jesus continued to challenge and commission them. Finally, in the very early hours of Friday, Jesus and His eleven bewildered disciples arrived at the hedged-in, private “garden of the wine-press”, known to us as Gethsemane.
 - b) The disciples follow His lead—*and His disciples also followed Him.*
- 2) **Jesus warns the Eleven—22:40** ⁴⁰ *And having arrived at the place, He said to them, “Pray that you^{pl} may not enter into temptation.”*
 - a) Most likely referring to the temptation associated with Satan’s sifting them (cf. 22:31)
 - b) Prayer will protect them from unfaithfulness, and will encourage them to faithfulness and perseverance. Prayer is important because it expresses a need for God, a desire to depend on Him and to rest in His care. (Bock)
- 3) **Jesus suffers apart from human support—22:41-44**
 - As we watch the Second Adam in a Garden, the natural question arises: will He fail, like the First Adam? Or will He pass the test?
 - a) A closer focus on Jesus—22:41
 - i) ⁴¹ *And **He** (emphatic) withdrew from them about a stone’s throw,*
 - (1) Both Matthew and Mark indicate Jesus left 8 disciples and took Peter, James, and John further into the garden. (Mt. 26:37; Mk. 14:33)
 - (2) Jesus tells the inner circle of His intense emotional and spiritual struggle (Mk. 14:33, 34) (cf. Isa. 53:11)

- (a) To be troubled [evkqambe,w]—to be overwhelmed emotionally, alarmed, stunned, terrified
 - (b) Deeply distressed [avdhmone,w]—to be subject to intense inner agitation
 - ii) *and having knelt down, He began to pray,*
 - (1) Jews normally stood while they prayed.
 - b) An intimate record of the Son's prayer to the Father—22:42
 - i) His desire—⁴² *saying, "Father, if (1st class condition, assumed true) You are willing, take away this cup from Me;*
 - (1) This cup alludes to the wrath of God that Jesus would experience (in the form of suffering and death) for us. (NET)
 - (2) See His submission demonstrated in just a few minutes (John 18:11)
 - ii) His submission—*nevertheless, let not My will but Yours be done.*
 - (1) Despite the horrific prospect of wrath ahead of him, Jesus agrees with the Father's will. (Thompson)
 - (2) Jesus' request is less significant than His desire to do the Father's will. He makes known the desire of His heart to God, but His primary concern is to accomplish God's will. (Bock)
 - c) The Father's merciful response to the Son—22:43
 - i) ⁴³ *Then an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.*
 - d) The intensity of the Son's suffering—22:44
 - i) Spiritual intensity—⁴⁴ *And being in anguish He prayed more fervently;*
 - ii) Physical intensity—*and His sweat became like drops of blood falling down upon the ground.*
 - (1) This is not hematidrosis, i.e. actually sweating blood
 - iii) Jesus realizes the terrible fate He faces, but He is ready to face death now because God has strengthened Him for the task. (Bock)
 - e) Four aspects of Jesus' prayer: (Zuber)
 - i) He acknowledged the Father's ability to hear and to answer
 - ii) He communicated His desire
 - iii) He expressed His submission
 - iv) He demonstrated fervency
- 4) **Jesus warns the Eleven a second time—22:45-46**
- a) Their sorrow has exhausted them—22:45 ⁴⁵ *And when He got up from prayer, and having approached the disciples, He found them sleeping from grief.*
 - i) Mentally and emotionally drained
 - b) His response to them—22:46 ⁴⁶ *And He said to them,*
 - i) A question—*"Why are you^{pl} sleeping?"*
 - ii) A command—*Get up and pray that you^{pl} will not enter into temptation."*
 - (1) Most likely the temptation associated with Satan's sifting them (cf. 22:31)
 - (2) The disciples will not be ready unless they depend on God and prepare to be faithful to Him. Faithfulness requires diligence. (Bock)

- 5) Things we need to remember: (Thompson, 350)
 - a) Jesus models prayerful dependence before the trial comes.
 - b) Jesus combines earnest prayer and submission to the Father's will.
 - c) Jesus knows answered prayer even in the midst of an unimaginable ordeal.