

Title: Have You Had Your Gethsemane

Text: Mark 14:32-42

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Place: Decatur Church of God

Theme: Journey With Jesus

It's Easter! This is a day for celebration. Our Lord has risen from the grave, a victor over sin and death.

Put on your best clothes. Eat good food and if possible spend time with family or loved ones. It is a great day and we should acknowledge it.

But what brings us to the resurrection? What is it that forms the foundation for today's celebration?

### **Mark 14:32-42**

*They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup>He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."*

<sup>35</sup>*Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.*

<sup>36</sup>*"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

<sup>37</sup>*Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."*

<sup>39</sup>*Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping,*

*because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.*

*<sup>41</sup>Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.*

*<sup>42</sup>Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"*

\* A few weeks ago we gathered around Ron Hammond as he prepared to depart for the mission field in the Dominican Republic. I'm sure that he had already spent time in prayer but he wanted, and we wanted to have prayer together before he left.

**I. Before Jesus would lay down his life, he wanted to spend some time in prayer with his disciples.**

\* Gethsemane is a Hebrew word for an oil press. Some years ago I became aware of how the people would take their olives and place them in a stone trough and then roll another stone on top of them to squeeze the oil out. This oil was collected and used in a number of ways.

Probably this garden that Jesus was making his way into contained a number of olive trees. Jesus was using it as a quiet place in the night where he would not be bothered as he sought an opportunity with his friends.

- A. Jesus was deeply bothered by the events that he knew lay before him and he wanted his best friends with him.
  - a. He had his disciples and then went a little farther with Peter, James and John.
  - b. Even Jesus had some friends that he depended on more than others.

\* We prayed for Jo Heyerly. Who do you think brought her great comfort? Why her good friends of course? She appreciated the visits from the Watkins and the Poindexters.

Her pastors have been with her to pray for and with her. But there is a close circle that could do what we could not.

Barb Fox, Mo Rittmeyer, and Naomi Cook have been there for her. They could help her to the bathroom, straighten her room up, and even paint toenails.

- B. What friends do you want by your side when the times get rough?
  - a. Have you developed those kinds of relationships?
  - b. Are you willing to be that kind of a friend to others?

\* As the four walked into the “garden” Jesus became noticeably distressed and troubled (“to be in extreme anguish”). He told the three that His soul (Jesus’ inner self-conscious life) was overwhelmed with such grief and that it threatened to extinguish His life. This prompted Him to tell them to remain where they were and keep watch, to be alert. The full impact of His coming death and its *spiritual* consequences struck Jesus and He staggered under its weight. The prospect of alienation from His Father horrified Him

## II. Jesus was asking God for some help.

- B. This stuff is going to hurt. “Father, help me!”
  - a. It is not easy to let people spit on you and make fun of you.
  - b. It is going to break your heart to see your best friends run away and leave you to face it alone.
  - c. The physical pain was more than any person should ever have to bear.
  - d. He fell to his knees and asked his closest relationship, God, for help.

\* He acknowledged that the answer to His request was not governed by what He desired but by what the Father willed. God's will entailed His sacrificial death.

**Mark 8:31**

*He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.*

So He resolutely submitted Himself to it.

- C. Have you ever found yourself in a quandary that brought you great difficulty but you knew the right choice was to be obedient to the heavenly Father?

\* Since our Elder Board was formed in 2003, we have found ourselves on a few occasions facing decisions that were painful and difficult. We often knew what was right but we also knew that the right choice was not without pain.

We too would spend our time in the garden in prayer. At times we would have been extremely happy to let God guide us in another way. But sometimes he didn't. We knew that obedience and sacrifice were important so the Elders have made some decisions that have caused individuals and families to become angry with us and with the church.

- a. Does it hurt you when your family and friends become angry with you?
- b. Does it break you heart when long-standing friends drop you like a worm-infested piece of bread?

\* Of course it hurts! Even when you are doing the right thing, and that's when you want the support of your best friends.

**III. His best friends were not invested in the night's activities like he was.**

- A. Jesus knew what was coming that night.
  - a. He knew the pain and anguish that he was about to endure.
  - b. It weighed him down.
  - c. He had told his disciples what was to come.
  - d. They didn't understand and thus didn't carry the same burden.

\* I was talking with some friends not too long ago about what it was like when we were children. We were telling stories about what our dads would do to us when we misbehaved at church.

Several of us told how our dads would pick us up and carry us out of the service and they weren't taking us to GIGville. We all knew of stories where the child would look up at the congregations as they were being carried out and would say "Pray for me!"

They knew we were going to be spanked. Still, they were not as invested in the coming apocalypse as we were. In some cases, I think that they were praying for my Dad and that his aim would be true.

**IV. Jesus went back and prayed again and again his disciples failed him.**

- A. Once was not enough.
  - a. Jesus was still burdened.
  - b. And his best friends still slept through his anguish.
- B. Nothing hurts us so deeply as to be in great pain and believe that no one cares.

\* Even in elementary school we soon learned that it was easier if someone got into trouble with us rather than us doing it alone. Punishment and pain seemed easier if others had to go through it with us.

Remember, Jesus was about to be punished for the sins of the world. --- Your sins!

## V. After the third time, he said, “Enough!”

- A. Jesus sought the heart and mind of God and was ultimately satisfied, though not happy, that he found it.
- a. The plan was to be fulfilled.
  - b. Christ was about to be sacrificed.
  - c. He was done waiting for his disciples.
  - d. Enough.

\* I was about four or five when I had disobeyed at home and I knew that discipline would soon follow.

My best solution was to run away from home. So I left the house and walked down the street, around the corner and sat down below some hedges (keep in mind that I wasn't allowed to cross the street.)

It soon got dark, it started to get colder and I decided that I had enough.

## VI. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

**Conclusion:** Jesus faced his Gethsemane. Though his followers failed him, he still accepted his role and was obedient to God's plan. Yes, he suffered, bled, and died but then He also rose from the tomb.

Without his death there would have been no resurrection.

My question to you: Have you faced your Gethsemane? No matter who or what support you have or

you lack, have you surrendered your will to the will of God? Will you accept and follow his plan?

I just want to remind you, without the cross there is no resurrection. Is there a victory that you are missing because you are not willing to submit to Jesus?

1. Are you refusing to love someone?
2. Are your dollars more precious to you than people?
3. Are you holding back from participating in some ministry because it might be hard or painful?
4. Are you rejecting Jesus because of what he might expect from you?

Have you had your Gethsemane?