

(24) The Grief of Gethsemane (Mt. 26:30,36-46; Mk. 14:26,32-42; Lk. 22:39-46; Jn. 18:1)

1. Jesus and His (eleven) disciples crossed the Kidron brook/valley/ravine/torrent (Jn. 18:1) to the Mount of Olives (Mt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26; Lk. 22:39) to a place called Gethsemane (Mt. 26:36; Mk. 14:32) where there was a garden (Jn. 18:1).
 - a. Jesus often met His disciples here (Jn. 18:2). It was His custom (Lk. 22:39).
 - b. Gethsemane means “wine press.” Jesus must submit to this crushing (Isa. 53:10,11; Heb. 5:7-10) before He can tread His own winepress (Isa. 63:1-6; Rev. 19:15).
 - c. Adam’s failure and Jesus’ victory both took place in a garden.
2. Eight disciples were left to sit “here” while Peter, James & John were taken “over there” (Mt. 26:36) to a closer “here” (v.38) and Jesus went alone “a little beyond” (v.39).
 - a. Only ¼ of His disciples have the capacity to share His deepest prayers (Mt. 26:38; Mk. 14:34).
 - b. Watchfulness is defined as a wakefulness (1st Thess. 5:6,10). Sleeping (or drinking) on guard duty is a failure.
 - c. Their eyes were heavy (Mt. 26:40,43; Mk. 14:37,40), and their sorrow kept putting them to sleep (Lk. 22:45).
3. Jesus had greater sorrow than any of His disciples—indeed more than any human being in history, because He carried the pains of every human being who ever lived (Mt. 26:37,38; Isa. 53:3).
 - a. Suffering is not always deserved (Job 4:7,8; 8:13,20; Isa. 53:9).
 - b. Suffering can be according to the will of God (Isa. 53:10,11; 1st Pet. 4:12-19).
4. These Paterological prayers illustrate what is possible for our salvation and what is possible for God to accomplish. Even for the One for Whom “all things” are possible, any particular thing may not be possible in many particular ways or by many particular means.
 - a. Matthew’s recorded prayers: “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet, not as I will, but as You will” (Mt. 26:39). “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done” (Mt. 26:42). (The same thing once more) (Mt. 26:44).
 - b. Mark’s recorded prayer: “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what you will” (Mk. 14:36).
 - c. Luke’s recorded prayer: “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done” (Lk. 22:42).
 - d. Jesus’ warning to the Three provides an indication as to His personal concern: the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (Mt. 26:41; Mk. 14:38).
5. Dr. Luke describes the angelic ministrations Jesus was sustained by (Lk. 22:43), and also provides a medical description of the physical symptoms caused by Jesus’ psychological anguish (v.44).
 - a. Angels ministered to Jesus (cf. Mt. 4:11). In Matt. 4 plural angels came and ministered to Jesus. In Luke 22 a single angel strengthened Jesus. ἐνισχύω enischuō ^{#1765}_{2x}: *strengthen* (Lk. 22:43; Acts 9:19).
 - b. The legitimacy of these verses is questioned by textual criticism. The NA/UBS committee gives an A rating for their certainty of these verses not being original to Luke’s gospel.