

# **“Facing Gethsemane”**

## **Luke 22:39-62**

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**Teaching Aim:** To examine the agony Jesus experienced while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane hours before His crucifixion. To understand the important role prayer plays in fighting off the temptations of the enemy. To recognize how easy it is for each of us to deny Christ because of fear today. To realize when we do stumble and fall, the answer is to repent and turn back to Jesus.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: An agonizing night of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-54)**

1. According to **Luke 22:1-38**, what major events took place on that fateful evening just before Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray? Should we be surprised that Jesus chose the Mount of Olives as His place to pray (**vs. 39**)? Why or why not? Did Judas know where to find Jesus? If so, how? (See **John 18:1-3**) What did Jesus request His disciples do with Him when they arrived at the garden (**vs. 40**)? What made this request so urgent? What kind of temptations were quickly approaching each of the disciples? Have you ever found yourself doubting your faith during when life got tough? If so, why?
2. On this cool and quiet evening under a full moon, how far did Jesus move away from the main group of disciples to pray (**vs. 41**)? According to **Mark 14:33**, what three disciples did Jesus take further into the garden to support Him with their prayers? How well did they do at this? Since they were just a stone’s throw away, do you think the other disciples could hear Jesus praying as He cried out to God? What effect did His praying have on them?
3. What special request did Jesus make to the Father in **verse 42**? What “*cup*” was Jesus referring to? (See **Isa. 51:17,22; Rom. 5:8-9**) What made the thought of drinking this cup so upsetting to Jesus? (See **Psa. 22:1,16-18; Matt 27:46**) In Christ’s moment of desperation, whom did God send from heaven to strengthen Him (**vs. 43**)? Has God ever strengthened and encouraged you in times of need by sending an “*angelos*” (or “*messenger*”) who spoke a word of encouragement to you? Could this “*messenger*” also be a friend?

4. According to **verse 44**, how intensely was Jesus praying? On this cool night, Jesus' sweat came out "*like drops of blood.*" Was Luke simply stating that Jesus sweat a lot or is it possible that Jesus suffered from the medical condition known as "*hematidrosis.*" What is "*hematidrosis?*" (Hint: Search online) What did Jesus find when He arose to check on His disciples (**vs. 45**)? How many times did Jesus check on them? (See **Matt. 26:36-46**) Why were the disciples so tired? What caused the disciples to be filled with "*sorrow?*" (See **vv. 21-23**) Do you find yourself at times going through depression or sorrow today? If so, why? Have you ever doubted and questioned the faithfulness of God in the past? If so, what caused you to struggle?

## **Part II: Jesus is betrayed by one of His disciples (Luke 22:47-53)**

1. What happened as Jesus woke His disciples up from their slumber (**vs. 47**)? According to **verse 47**, which disciple of Jesus betrayed Him? Why did he do this? How did this disciple identify Jesus to the mob in the darkness under the full moon? Was this an unusual way to greet someone in Christ's day?
2. How did Jesus respond to Judas' act of betrayal (**vs. 48**)? The title "*Son of Man*" was the favorite title Jesus used for Himself, using it some 82 or 83 times in the gospel accounts. What makes this title "*Son of Man*" so important? (See **Dan. 7:9-14**) Who was Jesus identifying Himself as by using this Messianic title?
3. According to **verses 49 & 50**, how did the disciples react to the mob? Were they correct in responding this way? (See **Matt. 26:52-53; John 18:11**) Whose ear did Peter cut off in his feeble attempt to protect Jesus? (See **John 18:10**) What miraculous act did Jesus perform in **verse 51**? NOTE: This is the only time in Scripture where Jesus heals a fresh wound and the only time where He heals an unbeliever physically. Why did He do so here? Did this miracle change the mind of the mob that came to arrest Jesus?

4. How did Jesus challenge the mob in **verse 52**? Why was the darkness of night a fitting picture of what was taking place at that very moment? Why did the mob not arrest Jesus in daylight while He was teaching at the temple? According to **verse 53**, did this hour have to come? If so, why?

**Part III: Peter's denial of Jesus - a wakeup call for every believer today (Luke 22:54-62)**

1. Whose house did the mob first take Jesus to (**vs. 54**)? Jesus went through six illegal trials in the wee hours of Friday morning before His crucifixion at 9:00am. Who did Jesus face in each of these trials?

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2. According to **verse 54**, how closely did Peter follow Jesus? Why? What emboldened him to move closer (**vs. 55**)? Who first recognized Peter (**vs. 56**)? Is it possible this young lady also knew the High Priest's servant Malchus? Would Peter's act of violence against her fellow servant Malchus have made her angry? How did Peter react to the lowly servant's claim (**vs. 57**)?

3. What happened next in **verse 58**? What can we learn about the second servant from **verse 58**? How did Peter respond to this second charge against him? Have you ever lied (or told a white lie) while under pressure? Why did you do it? How did you feel afterwards?

4. What happened for a third time about an hour later (**vs. 59**)? How did Peter respond this time (**vs. 60**)? What happened while Peter was denying that he had any relationship with Christ? What did Jesus do when the rooster crowed? What do you think entered Peter's mind as he looked into the disappointed eyes of Jesus (**vs. 61**)? (See **vv. 31-34**) Have you ever let somebody that you love down? How did Peter react when he realized he had let Jesus down (**vs. 62**)? Have you ever lied or did something wrong only to experience the conviction of the Holy Spirit? How did it affect you? How should we respond when we realize we have let Jesus down? (See **1 John 1:9**)

5. For Peter this was the beginning of a new day. Peter sought forgiveness and was restored by Christ after the resurrection. (See **Mark 16:7; Luke 24:34; John 21:15-23**) Are you facing your own garden experience today? If so, what is it? Have you handed your problems over to God in this time of need? (See **1 Pet. 5:7**) Are you willing to trust in the Lord no matter how difficult your circumstances might be? (See **Prov. 3:5-6; Rom. 8:28**)
6. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer? Perhaps you have received Christ but have wandered away from your walk with Jesus? If so, why not confess your sin and ask for forgiveness from the Lord right now? (See **1 John 1:9**)

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Prayer strengthens and helps us to overcome the temptations of the enemy.
- Not all of our prayers will be answered in the way that we want, God may allow us to go through trials to strengthen our faith and to bring us into a closer walk with Him.
- Following the will of God will be more beneficial in the long run than following our own will and desires.
- Jesus put a stop to the violence of His disciples; this should be a lesson for every Christian to learn and apply today.
- Even Jesus' closest disciples denied Him under pressure, at times we may too.
- We don't have to live in fear today, Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, from where He will come again in the not-too-distant future as Lord and King!