

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Watch and Pray

Matthew 26:36-56

Previously

- Passover & Last Supper
- Old Covenants > New Covenant - **all shadows (last shadow), Jesus is the fulfilment**
- Betrayer by choice
- All would stumble

Today

- Praying and being arrested in a Garden...**remember where this all started?**

[Pray]

:36 - 39

After dinner, a late-night walk in the garden

Our old road in the Bitterroot

A place called Gethsemene

Literally “an oil press”

At the foot of the mount of olives - olives grown there, there was an oil press here at some point

Not far from the temple (ironic, it wouldn't be hard to find Jesus here)

Jesus went to a garden...to pray

- The Garden of Eden
- Mary thinking he's the gardener after the resurrection

There's something about having a special place to go with the Lord

Prayer closet, favorite spot in your yard, on the mountain

All the disciples go (minus Judas)

Peter, James & John - probably his closest friends

He asks them to come and pray with Him

During Battle, Moses, Aaron and Hur - arms up

It's important that we have close friends whom we can confide in

Who can pray for us about our most distressing things

The intimacy can only be reserved for a few - it's no longer intimate if it's with the many

**When going away with them He begins to break down
Sorrowful, deeply distressed**

Sorrowful, grieved, uneasy
Heavy, troubled, anguished, depressed

Isaiah 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

**The weight of the cross was more than physical
It was also spiritual, mental, emotional**

Even to God, sin is heavy

Luke 22:43-44 - Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Jesus reveals it

My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death

If Jesus told his closest friends when he was deeply bothered, upset, how much more should we? (We must pick the right friends for the occasion)

It's not a sin to be sad, sorrowful, depressed

Although it may be sin that causes it

The sin is not praying about it, Not seeking help with it

Many people seek counseling, therapy. And I think many of them, not all, would do better to just pray and seek close friends - easier to talk to an uninvested stranger vs. pastor

But in our modernity, prayer is not accepted. And good friends are hard to find.

We're meant to have that intimate talking relationship with God and a few close companions

It's no wonder depression, loneliness and suicide is so rampant

There's only one way to deal with our burdens, and it's prayer - by us and others for us.

But Jesus wasn't suicidal. The weight of the cross was crushing his soul. It could kill him. And I don't think he's being hyperbolic or dramatic.

We can't underestimate the weight of sin and the crushing effects of sadness on us

Stay here and watch with me

He lets them know what's going on. And to watch. Watch for whatever happens. They knew Judas was out there somewhere and it was the night Jesus had been talking about

Jesus goes off on his own to pray

He knew God was the only one with the answer for him

And whatever that answer was, it was the only way to deal with the burden

What does He pray? Father...(relationship, authority, covering, director of his life)

If it is possible...

Of course it's possible, Jesus could have not gone to the cross
Just because something is a possibility doesn't mean it's an opportunity

God's will only has one way

Jesus didn't necessarily want to go to the cross (why would He?)

It would be awful

And Jesus had to be sure it was what God wanted. Was the right thing to do now

It was the Father's will - and it would be Jesus' will too after this prayer

Free will - the lie from the garden -

that we only have freedom, free will, if we choose what we want

Exercising our free will to make God's will our own is the actual freedom

Choosing our own way only leads us to becoming slaves

It feels like freedom in the beginning - but it ends up as slavery and death

It feels like slavery or death in the beginning - but it leads to life

Isaiah 53:10-11 - Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

Jesus depression wasn't cured by getting out of the trial, but by going through it

:40 - 41

About an hour later...

How long do we pray for? When's the last time you prayed for an hour, especially late at night? And after a big meal?

If you can't sleep, try praying, sometimes it works so well you fall asleep before you're done...

Try praying for an hour if you haven't in a while.

If you're like me, you'll begin to see how quickly your mind goes somewhere else and how scatterbrained you are.

**But truthfully, there's always more to pray about.
If we're honest, an hour doesn't even begin to cover it.**

**How do you hear it? Do you hear him condemning? Rebuking? Prodding?
Jesus' concern is for THEM. He doesn't want them falling into temptation.**

We must set a watch to pray

Like a watch in the night, in trials, trying times, dangerous spiritual warfare

If you knew there were mobs about, would you sleep soundly? Or would you sleep lightly, check every noise, turn on the lights outside, check your doors and windows

Getting woken up in the middle of the night, sense that prayer is needed

1 Peter 4:12-13 - Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

**Prayer is relationship, not repetition - not a magic spell
It's aligning our will with God's. Asking for things God wants to happen.**

Mat 21:13-14 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" 14 Then [the] blind and [the] lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

So that hurting people - in every sense of the word - would come to Him and be healed.

If you love someone, don't you like talking to them, about them to others?

If you had a friend who never talked to you, would you think they wanted to be your friend?

What if they only asked you for things? Or only when they needed something?

What if they gave you short responses? Would you think something was wrong between you?

I found myself checking my phone for the time when praying...
and it hit me...what would I think if someone did that when talking to me?

Yet God always has all the time in the world for us.
And He wants us to come to Him...for our sake.

The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

The flesh hates to pray. Would rather do something else, especially sleep.
The spirit knows it's necessary.
This is the first battle to win.

:42 - 46

Jesus prays again, the same thing

Not repetition for formula. Repetition because it was a big deal. He had to make sure. He had to know. His heart had to get it all out.

Found them sleeping...again...let's them sleep

God will not force you to get up.
He will not force you to pray.

It's up to us to have some measure of diligence and to realize that sometimes it's more valuable than rest

Luke says that He found them sleeping from sorrow.
Being worn out with sorrow and grief is like nothing else.

Matthew knew the story.

Was he awake at a distance? Was he half asleep knowing what Jesus prayed? **Someone was.**

Third Time Prays

Third time finds them sleeping and resting

Are we asleep at the spiritual wheel? Do we know what hour it is?

You'd think that on this night of any, they'd be aware enough
The betrayal, everything Jesus said is about to happen
Yet they can still close their eyes like little babies without a concern in the world

I'll bet this made Jesus feel even more alone and betrayed
Yet He doesn't leave them. He still cares for them.

:47 - 50

Now Judas shows up...with his war party

What a great number of armed soldiers and people show up to arrest Jesus

They were afraid! They knew He had power!

They didn't want any chance of him getting away like at other times.

Reminds me of the final battle when the AC gathers all the armies of the world to try and defeat Jesus and they all get slaughtered easily by the Sword out of His mouth

Greetings, Rabbi!

Think of the slimy, friendly tone! And action!

The intimate kiss on the cheek of friends and family in many cultures.

If it were today, maybe a fist-bump and guy hug

Yet it was the greeting of his betrayer

Betrayal can only come from those close to us. **Enemies don't betray us. Friends do.**

John tells us in Ch. 18 that when they asked who He was he said I AM (the name of God) and they all fell down.

This isn't "slain in the spirit" as some would say. And even if it was, it was the enemies being slain, not His disciples.

Jesus' response?

CALLS DOWN FIRE ON HIS BETRAYER! No.

Friend, why have you come?

Jesus still calls Judas his friend, still loves him, still gives opportunity to repent and be restored

He knew that he was being betrayed. He knew why the crowd was there.

But he wants Judas to consider why Judas himself is there.

Oh the grace and love of God himself!

Why are YOU betraying Me God says to us his disciples who know Him have been around Him?

What has God done to us that we would even think of it? Has what has happened in our lives really been God's fault? If we're mad at God over something, is our anger towards Him correct?

:51 - 52

Peter cuts of the ear of the high priest's servant

Was he a bad shot? Was he tough but afraid to kill? Did the guy dodge?

Getting in fights as a kid, but afraid to punch, punching awkwardly

Jesus tells Peter to put away his sword

But wait, the same Jesus also commanded they sell even your clothing to get a sword?!

Luk 22:36-38 Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take [it], and likewise a knapsack; **and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.** "For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end." So they said, "Lord, look, here [are] two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."

Two swords.

- Long gun and sidearm in my book.
- Broad sword for large battle and machira for close up combat.

Same God who David says (even sings) this about

Psa 144:1 Blessed [be] the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, [And] my fingers for battle--

The point is not pacifism.

Not defending those you love would be UNgodly.

Robber breaking in, praying...?

Love thy neighbor...what if the robber is the government?

The point was the sword cannot stop what God wills - the gospel

Jhn 18:11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. **Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"**

And the sword cannot be used to spread the gospel

- Crusades, islam way of the sword - jihad

The holy war is not fought with guns,

but that doesn't mean the holy don't take up arms

We live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God

And carry a sword to defend and protect the innocent

And turn our cheek when someone wants to slap us (but that doesn't mean let them kill us necessarily)

What we live by, we die by

Let it be the sword of the spirit - the word of God

Let it show us what to live for, What to die for

:53 - 56

Jesus pulls the veil back

Look, I'm a commander of a huge army -

the most powerful army in the universe and beyond

60k angelic soldiers in an instant

But we go this way because it's the Word of God

And the Word of God says it needs to go this way

Does the word of God hold that kind of authority with us?

Or are we always trying to make it say what we want it to say?

Are we trying to fit it into our lives or make our lives fit into it?

The scriptures will be fulfilled one way or another

Which side of the Sword of God do you want to be on?

Those defended by it? Or those destroyed by it?

- And when they're told not to fight
- When they're outnumbered
- When Jesus is being handcuffed
- The temptation comes...

and all of the disciples stumbled and fled

Mark is likely the young man who gets away by leaving his clothes behind

Upon betrayal, they chose not loyalty, but instead

Forsook - give up, go away, abandon, disregard

Why? Because their flesh was weak. Because they would not watch and pray.

We must Watch and Pray