

Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-56

Main Themes:

1. Jesus confessed His love for the Father when He asked, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will but you will.”
2. We have no spiritual strength of our own; we flee in the face of suffering.
3. Jesus died for us because He loved His Father all sinners.
4. Jesus trusted His Father in the midst of His suffering and prayed that the Father’s will be done.
5. Jesus’ betrayal, arrest, suffering, death, and abandonment by His disciples happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures, so that our faith and understanding of Jesus’ work would rest upon God’s Word.

Questions:

1. Who went with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane? *All the disciples, except Judas.*
2. Whom did Jesus take with Him into the Garden to pray? *Peter, James, and John*
3. What did Jesus tell Peter, James, and John? *“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”*
4. What did Jesus pray? *“If it is possible, let this cup pass from ME; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”*
5. How many times did Jesus pray this prayer? *Three times.*
6. What does this teach us? *He loved His Father. He was devoted and committed to the Father’s will, even though it meant His own suffering and death. Unlike Adam, who willingly left the Father by following the lie of Satan, Jesus held fast to His Father.*
7. What does the cup represent? *The Father’s wrath against us, and the bitter suffering and death that He was called to endure for us.*
8. With what words will Jesus express His agony upon the cross? *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Psalm 22:1)*
9. How is Jesus’ prayer in the Garden similar to the Lord’s Prayer? *He prays to His Father (The introduction) and He prays that the Father’s will be done (Third Petition)*
10. What does the image of drinking the cup signify? *He will take all our sin and punishment that we deserve into Himself for our salvation.*
11. What were the disciples to do while Jesus was praying? *They were to watch (pay attention to God’s Word) and pray.*
12. What question did Jesus ask when He found the disciples sleeping? *“Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.”*
13. How does Jesus answer His own question? *“The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.”*
14. What does this mean? *They desired to watch and pray according to their faith in Jesus, but their flesh was sinful and weak and gave them no strength for their own to resist temptation.*
15. What is Jesus referring to when He says, “Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners”? *The purpose for which He came into the world, to suffer and die for sinful man, has now arrived.*
16. Who came with Jesus? *A multitude with swords and clubs came from the chief priests and elders of the people.*
17. What sign did Judas use to betray Jesus? *A kiss.*
18. What does Jesus call Judas? *Friend.*
19. What prophecy does Judas’ betrayal fulfill? *Psalm 41:9—“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.” See also Psalm 55:12-14*
20. How did one of Jesus’ disciples respond? *He drew a sword and cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant.*
21. How does Jesus respond to the violence of this disciple? *He tells him to put away his sword “for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.” And that if were God’s will for them to fight in this way, the Father would send Him more than twelve legions of angels (72000 angels)*

22. Why doesn't Jesus send for the angels to fight His enemies? *Because He must suffer and die according to the scriptures. Jesus suffering and death is the only way that the kingdom of God is established and the only way that forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are won for the whole world.*
23. What does Jesus say about His nighttime arrest by the violent crowd? *He asks them why they had not arrested Him when He sat with them daily in the temple teaching the Word of God.*
24. Why didn't they arrest Him when He taught in the temple? *The Word of God prevented them from arresting Him, because all things had to be done according to the Scriptures.*
25. Why did the disciples forsake Him and flee? *Because their Good Shepherd had been struck and they were scandalized by His suffering just as Jesus and the Scriptures had foretold.*

Prayer:

Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the faithful suffering and prayer of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Jesus' Trial before Pontius Pilate
Matthew 27:1-26**

Main Themes:

1. Pontius Pilate acted in God's place by declaring Jesus to be innocent and sentencing Him to death.
2. Jesus is our innocent substitute who shed His blood and died in the place of all mankind.
3. Only the blood of Jesus can forgive sins and save us from death and condemnation.
4. Through the blood of Jesus who died in our place we become "sons of the Father" through faith in Him.

Questions:

1. What happened to Judas after he realized that Jesus was condemned to death? *He was remorseful and brought back the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."*
2. What did Judas do when the priests and elders didn't care for Judas but sent him away to deal his sin himself? *He hanged himself.*
3. What was Judas trying to do when he committed suicide? *He was trying to save himself from his sin, but only Jesus can save us from our sins.*
4. Why did the chief priests and elders of the people bring Jesus to the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate? *They wanted Pilate to sentence Jesus to death so that Pilate would be blamed and Jesus' blood would be on his hands rather than their own. They envied Jesus because so many people believed in Him as their Messiah.*
5. What did Pilate mean when he asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews? *He was asking Jesus if He were claiming to be the Messiah—the promised Savior.*
6. Why does Jesus not defend Himself before Pilate? *Because He is the sacrificial Lamb of God, who willingly went to the cross for us. "As a lamb is silent before its shearers, so He opened not His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7)*
7. What custom did the Roman governor often observe at the time of the Passover? *He would give a Jewish prisoner his freedom.*
8. Who did the chief priests and elders demand to be released instead of Jesus? *Barabbas.*
9. What does the name Barabbas mean and who does he represent? *Barabbas means "Son of the father"—he represents all sinners who are set free because of what Jesus, the true "Son of the Father" had done in our place. We become "sons of the Father" on account of Jesus dying in our place.*
10. What did Pilate's wife dream about? *That Jesus was a "just" or "righteous" man.*
11. What did Pilate ask the chief priests, elders of the people, and the multitudes who insisted upon Jesus' crucifixion? *"Why, what evil has He done?"*

12. What happened when Pilate tried to release Jesus? *A riot was about to take place. The people cried out and screamed to Pilate, "Let Him be crucified."*
13. Who do all these people represent who cried out for Jesus' crucifixion? *All of mankind.*
14. What did Pilate do and proclaim when he realized that He could not prevent the crucifixion? *He took water and washed his hands before the crowd and said, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." (This is similar to what the priests and elders said to Judas after he brought the money back to them.)*
15. How did the people respond to Pilate and what do their words mean, even if they didn't realize it? *They told Pilate, "His blood be on us and on our children." Though they did not realize what they were saying, His blood must cover all of us or we cannot be forgiven and set free from our sins.*

Prayer:

Almighty God, everlasting Father, Your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified under Pontius Pilate according to Your loving will to save the world. By the shedding of His blood in our place, we have the promise of the forgiveness of all our sins and the gift of everlasting life. We give thanks to You for Jesus' suffering and death on our behalf. Teach us always to believe in the blood of Jesus for our forgiveness and to take comfort only in what Jesus has done for us upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.