

A PLACE CALLED GETHSEMANE

INTRODUCTION

- I. While Jesus was on earth, He often went into a place of solitude, for His own emotional strength, and communion with God. Luke 21:37; 22:39; cf Matt. 26:30
 - A. This place was obviously “A place called Gethsemane.” Matt. 26:36; cf Mark 14:32
 1. The word “Gethsemane” means “olive crush,” or “oil crush”, which may have once been a place where olives were crushed to get oil for cooking.
 2. Olive wood was and continues to be a special wood for beautiful wood carving.,
 - B. Today, there is STILL a garden near the spot of the garden of Gethsemane in the first century, and has olive trees IN the garden estimated to be some 2,000 years old.
 - C. When we prepare to observe the Lord’s Supper, we often sing songs that remind us of the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross.
- II. This lesson will be an examination of the context of Matt. 26, where Jesus was in “a place called Gethsemane”, with all points beginning with the letter “S”.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, in Gethsemane there was the SORROWING SAVIOR.

- A. The Lord had just instituted the Lord’s Supper for the kingdom, and uttered His special prayer for Himself, the disciples, and all future believers, as recorded in John 17.
- B. Now, IN the Garden, Jesus calls upon His disciples and His Father for comfort IN His much suffering and pain.

II. 2nd, in Gethsemane there was the STRENGTHENING ANGEL.

- A. Jesus had always had help from the angels of God. Matt. 4:(1-10) 11
 1. Angels had ministered to Him at His temptation, and He always knew He could have angels to minister to Him upon request. Matt. 26:53
 2. Now, an angel of the Lord above appeared to Jesus giving Him strength and encouragement. Luke 22:43
- B. God had not allowed His Son to suffer without help from above.

III. 3rd, in Gethsemane there were the SLEEPING DISCIPLES.

- A. Now, Jesus enters into Gethsemane, with much suffering and sorrow.
 1. He speaks first to the eleven disciples who are with Him. Matt. 26:38
 2. Then, He speaks to the Father in heaven. v. 39
 3. Next, He speaks to Peter alone, a very close and intimate disciple. vs. 40,41
 4. After this, he returns and speaks to the Father again. v. 42
 5. Following this, He addresses the Father a third time. vs. 43-44
 6. Finally, He returns and addresses the disciples again. vs. 45-46
- B. Jesus knew that the disciples were very tired and needed rest, and that they **also** needed to pray. Luke 22:42-46; Matt. 26:41

IV. 4th, in Gethsemane there was SATAN’S SIGN FULFILLED.

- A. Judas had given the the enemies of Christ a “sign”, to identify Christ when they came to take Him and crucify Him. Matt. 26:47-48

- B. In Gethsemane, the “betrayal kiss” was given. Matt.26:49
 - 1. Even this was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Psa. 41:9
 - 2. Even in His grief and sorrow, Jesus is able to properly identify Judas. Matt. 26:50

V. 5th, in Gethsemane, there were the SEPARATING SERVANTS.

- A. Peter, who had already been given special attention by Jesus, attempts to protect Jesus by cutting off an ear of the high priest, but Jesus admonished Jesus to stop.
- B. Then, “all” of the disciples FLED the presence of the betrayal.
 - 1. Peter followed “afar off”, though he should have been closer to the Lord. v. 58
 - 2. Peter later denied the Lord three time, to his own sorrow. (vs. 59-75)

CONCLUSION

- I. We should NEVER forget Gethsemane, for IT was a prelude to Calvary, where Jesus was crucified in our behalf. 1 Cor. 11:27-30
- A. We often sing hymns that allude to Gethsemane.
 - 1. One such song is “Lead Me to Calvary.”
 - 2. Another appropriate song is “When My Love for Christ Grows Weak.”
- B. Should there be one in the audience who has not responded to the suffering and sacrifice of the Savior from Gethsemane, you are invited to make it known now, as we stand together and sing the song of invitation.

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