

VISITING THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

INTRODUCTION

The location of the garden of Eden is not known today, but the place for the garden of Gethsemane is physically described in scripture as being near the Cedron valley and the Mount of Olives (Matt. 26:30, 36; Mark 14:32; John 18:1-2). I was privileged to visit that area in 1963, where it is claimed is the old garden of Gethsemane, with old olive trees still there. It is claimed that the trees are some 2,000 years old, but Josephus the historian says that Titus cut down all the trees in Jerusalem around A.D. 70. At any rate, a visit to the present garden is very interesting and significant. Jesus found comfort in going to this garden, and chose this to be where He would spend the last night of His life on earth before the crucifixion.

Let's take a visit to the ancient garden of Gethsemane.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st Gethsemane is where Jesus spent an AGONIZING NIGHT.

- A. The circumstances leading up **to** this night are very interesting.
1. The well known prayer of the Lord in John 17 (when He prayed for Himself, the apostles and future believers) is just before He ended His sayings. Cf John 18:1
 2. His last passover meal is described in Matt. 26:17-25
 - a. Judas left after this meal and before the Lord's Supper instituted.
 - b. Jesus' heart must have been heavy knowing what Judas was to do.
 3. Then there was the institution of the memorial feast for the kingdom, as we observe today. Matt. 26:26-29; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:26
- B. Jesus made an important announcement at Mount Olivet. Matt. 26:30
1. He said all the eleven would be offended at Him that night. vv. 31-35
 - a. That "night" would be getting close to accomplishing everything He came into the world to do.
 - b. Jesus even revealed His plan to meet with them at a mountain in Galilee after His resurrection. v. 32; cf 28:7
 2. From here they all went to the garden of Gethsemane. v. 36
- C. Jesus came to the garden to pray. v. 36
1. He first encouraged the disciples to pray. Luke 22:40
 2. He then announced that He was going to a spot and pray. Mark 14:32; Luke 22:41
 - a. He began to be "sore amazed" and "very heavy" (Mark 14:34).
 - b. He then separated Himself along with Peter, James and John, to a place for His prayer. v. 34
 - c. He even told His disciples He was "exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." Matt. 26:38
 3. He first knelt down to pray. Luke 22:41
 - a. He then fell to the ground and His face. Mark 14:35; Matt. 26:39
 - b. For **what** did Jesus pray upon this occasion?
 - 1) He did **not** pray that if God could find any other way than the cross, let it be done **if** it was God's "will", as His humanity was crying out (which some people teach).
 - 2) BUT, Jesus was praying for that "hour" (of His prayer and

coming death) that it would soon “pass”, and He would have strength in that “hour might pass from him” (Mark 14:35) knowing that He was going to die, as He came into this world for that purpose (John 12:27. 32),

- a. An “angel” came to strengthen Him. Luke 22:44
 - b. His prayer **was answered**, and He was **not spared** from death, but even in death He was the first of the 3 on crosses to die. Heb. 5:7; John 19:31-36
 - c. Yet, Jesus was still in agony, and prayed “more earnestly” (Luke 22:44).
- 3) After the third prayer, Jesus told the sleeping disciples to go ahead and sleep and get their rest. Mark 14:41A
 - 4) He announced that the time had come for His betrayal. Mark 14:BC
 - 5) When He was brought before His accusers, Peter then denied Him 3 times, just as Jesus had said.

II. 2nd, we are reminded of Jesus' DEATH AFTER GETHESEMANE.

- A. By early morning after Gethsemane, Jesus had been mocked, beaten and was hurriedly tried and then nailed to the cross on the third hour of the day. Mark 15:45
 1. He hung there for 3 hours until darkness set in over the earth.
 2. At the 9th hour, He died. Luke 23:44-46
- B. Soldiers came to break His legs and hasten His death;, but seeing He was dead already, they pierced His side and there came out blood and water. John 19:33-34

CONCLUSION

- I. The blood Jesus promised would be shed, **was** now shed, and salvation was ready to be offered.
- II. Today, **we** can participate in that death of Jesus.
 - A. We can be saved by it when we are baptized into His death where His blood was shed. Rom. 6:3; Rev. 1:5
 - B. We also commune with Him each Lord's day in the Lord's Supper.
 1. The unleavened bread reminds us of His physical body.
 2. The fruit of the vine reminds us His shed blood. 1 Cor. 11:26
 3. We are also able to receive continual cleansing by His blood as we walk in the light and confess our sins. 1 John 1:7-9
- III. If you are in present need of the blood of Jesus, won't you respond now?