

Watch With Me

Joseph Carty / General

Friend of Jesus / Gethsemane; Trial; Temptation; Prayer / Matthew 26:38

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, went through the most severe trial for us in the Garden. Why would we want to take time to focus on one of the most difficult moments of human history? It is the blood-sweat, pain, and trail that we see the clearest glimpse of the character of God.

In the garden of Gethsemane, most horrible trials of all time. Why meditate upon that?

It is in the blood-sweat, pain, and trail that we see the clearest glimpse of the character of God.

Context of the Story

- Joy / anticipation
 - Triumphal Entry
- Sober
 - Cursing of Fig Tree
- Pleasant
 - Teaching in Synagogue

- Solemn
 - Foot Washing
- Peaceful
 - Final Sermon

The Garden of Gethsemane

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Luke 22:39 ESV

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him.

- Where they camped
 - frequently
 - home away from home.

-

Mark 14:32-33 ESV

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit

here while I pray.” And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled.

- Familiar Place
 - Jesus place of prayer

- Closest disciples
 - be with Him
 - night of sorrow
 - support him.

- Familiar place
 - familiar routine
 - Jesus prays
 - others sleep

- Jesus requests
 - they stay awake...

- Reason?
 - Jesus adds:

Luke 22:40 ESV

And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

- Jesus needs
 - their prayers.
- They need
 - their prayers.
- Jesus recently
 - made prediction:

Matthew 26:31 ESV

Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

- Peter argues

Matthew 26:34 ESV

Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”

- Luke adds:

[Luke 22:31–32](#) (ESV)

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.”

- Jesus knew,
 - what was coming.
 - Most severe trial
- Jesus understood
 - Power
 - Endurance
 - Perseverance
 - Faithfulness
 - Is won through prayer!
- Anyone here
 - struggle with
 - temptation???
- A lesson:

- the fight with temptations
 - is not won
 - in the moment
 - of temptation.

- Rather,
 - time before it.
 - quiet prayer
 - committed devotions
 - spiritual choices
 - preceding
 - “big trial.”

- Back to Jesus:
 - Joy of Last Supper
 - Now Gone.
 - Peace Gone

Desire of Ages (Chapter 74—Gethsemane)

As they approached the garden, the disciples had marked the change that came over their Master. Never before had they seen Him so utterly sad and silent. As He proceeded, this strange sadness deepened; yet they dared not question Him as to the cause.

DA 686

Matthew 26:38 ESV

Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”

- What was Jesus experiencing?
 - What changed in Him.
 - What sorrow?

Desire of Ages (Chapter 74—Gethsemane)

The guilt of fallen humanity He must bear. Upon Him who knew no sin must be laid the iniquity of us all. So dreadful does sin appear to Him, so great is the weight of guilt which He must bear, that He is tempted to fear it will shut Him out forever from His Father’s love. Feeling how terrible is the wrath of God against transgression, He exclaims, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.”

DA 686

- Weight of sin
 - already beginning
 - to be laid
 - on him!

Ellen White adds:

Every step that He now took was with labored effort. He groaned aloud, as if suffering under the pressure of a terrible burden. Twice His companions supported Him, or He would have fallen to the earth. DA 686

- Jesus reeling
 - physical can't withstand
 - weight of sins of world!

- What was really
 - happening there?

Desire of Ages (Chapter 74—Gethsemane)

He felt that by sin He was being separated from His Father.

- Jesus knew
 - could not use
 - divine power to
 - avert the hardship.
- Choice to make
 - will I go through
 - with this
 - or not?
- While world slept.
 - disciples slept.
 - friends slept.
- Jesus cry of agony
 - in the garden:

“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

- He was afraid,
 - he could not bare
 - total separation.
- Asking Father,
 - any other way...
- Answer
 - Dark
 - Silence
 - Crickets

Desire of Ages (Chapter 74—Gethsemane)

As Christ felt His unity with the Father broken up, He feared that in His human nature He would be unable to endure the coming conflict with the powers of darkness.

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- Jesus taking
 - our sins
 - upon himself.

Isaiah 59:2 ESV

but your iniquities have made a separation

between you and your God,

and your sins have hidden his face from you

so that he does not hear.

- Separation from Father.
 - Jesus prays
 - and pray
 - and prays.
- Father answers
 - nothing
 - not able
 - not allowed.

- Receiving no
 - spiritual support
 - from Father
 - (strength of life)
- Goes to human support

Matthew 26:40 **ESV**

And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour?”

- No support to be found.
- Disciples had
 - intended to pray
 - tried to pray
 - just so sleepy.
 - gave in.
- Jesus goes back

- prays again.

- Same prayer:

Matthew 26:42 ESV

Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

- Jesus was in
 - deep struggle.
 - spiritual struggle.
- Luke adds:

Luke 22:44 ESV

And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- We must understand
 - what was at stake
 - in the garden...
- Entire Great Controversy.
 - Christ had options.

- He could leave,
 - wash is hands
 - go back to heaven
 - not go through with it.
- Christ could sin
 - use human power.
 - Choose human homage
- Satan would win.

Desire of Ages (Chapter 74—Gethsemane)

Everything was at stake with him. If he failed here, his hope of mastery was lost; the kingdoms of the world would finally become Christ's; he himself would be overthrown and cast out. But if Christ could be overcome, the earth would become Satan's kingdom, and the human race would be forever in his power.

DA 687

- Universe

- as we know it
 - at stake!

- Make no mistake
 - Christ could sin!

- See Jesus,
 - moment of trial
 - bearing sins
 - sweating blood
 - crying out to Father
 - Father silent
 - praying for help
 - none coming
 -

- Satan
 - arch-deceiver

- whispered lies
- and discouragements:

- “What are you doing?”
- “It is not worth it!”
- “Your people will kill you!”
- “Your disciple betray you!”
- “Others will flee.”
- “Accomplishing Nothing”
- “Give up!”

- Satan’s lies
 - filled his mind:

Satan told Him that if He became the surety for a sinful world, the separation would be eternal. He would be identified with Satan’s kingdom, and would nevermore be one with God.

- Jesus is struggling.
 - weight of sin

- distorting clear thinking

Desire of Ages Chapter 74—Gethsemane

and the sense of God’s wrath against sin was crushing out His life.

- And the only voice
 - that he found
 - voice of Satan.
- Temptation to believe
 - was strong.
- “Give up!”
- “Not worth it!”

Desire of Ages (Chapter 74—Gethsemane)

Behold Him contemplating the price to be paid for the human soul. In His agony He clings to the cold ground, as if to prevent Himself from being drawn farther from God. The chilling dew of night falls upon His prostrate form, but He heeds it not. From His pale lips comes the bitter cry, “O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.” Yet even now He adds, “Nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.”

- Behold him...
- See him there.

- Greatest battle...
 - star wars
 - avengers

- Why focus on this?
 - Why meditate
 - on hardship?

- It is in
 - the dark times
 - character is seen.

- True for us...
- True for God.

- Is God love?
 - or is He full of power?
 - demanding worship?
 - forcing laws?

- How can God
 - be both
 - merciful
 - and just?

- We see him
 - in agony
 - in the garden.

- What we see?
 - pure righteousness.
 - pure selflessness.
 - pure faith.

- pure love.
- Love for a dying race.
 - a people under a curse.
 - the curse of sin.
- We see Jesus
 - chasing after us.
- Seemingly recklessly
 - offering himself
 - in our place.
- It seems incomprehensible
- Mystery of Redemption.

Paul Ephesian:

- “Mystery of Christ”
- “Mystery of his will.”
- “The plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God”

- “Profound mystery”

“The cleansing blood will be our science and our song through eternal ages.”

The Angel

Luke 22:43 ESV

And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

- Jesus had prayed.
 - For help
 - not to go through trial.
 - not to drink cup.
- Angel comes
 - not to remove cup
 - but to empower Jesus
 - to drink.

- That cup
 - cup of woe
 - cup of death
 - cup of persecution
 - cup of betrayl
 - cup of second death
- Had the angle
 - not come....
- Jesus would have died
 - in the garden.

- Angel sent...:

[John 3:14-15](#) (ESV)

The Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

- Back to the story

Mark 14:41-42 **ESV**

And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking

your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

- KJV

[Mark 14:41](#) (KJV 1900)

And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take *your* rest: it is enough, the hour is come...

- Don't worry
 - can't pray anymore
 - fight is over.
- It's over...
 - Jesus won the battle.
 - He made the choice.
 - To go through with it.
 - He will go to the cross...
- Continue:

Mark 14:42-43 KJV 1900

Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

- Look at this mob.
 - what a team
 - Satan has constructed...
- Chief Priests
- Scribes
- Elders
- Mob of angry men
- Led by Judas

English Standard Version Chapter 22

priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? 53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”

- Jesus says:

- “The night is better suited to your work.”
- Burned
 - because it was true.

The Light

John 18:4–5 ESV

Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

- Jesus did this
 - to protect disciples
- They would have
 - arrested all.

John 18:8 ESV

Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.”

- Something amazing happens
 - supernatural power
 - flashes before them.

John 18:6 ESV

When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

- The angle
 - who strengthened Jesus
 - was there.
- Ready at the command
 - to destroy the mob

185 Assyrian Soldiers.

- Universe could see.
 - Jesus could have
 - commanded Gabriel

- stop them.
- But he did not.
 - allowed His arrest.

The Kiss

- They fell down
 - disoriented
- You would think,
 - run
 - give up
- No,
 - pushed on
 - in the crowd
 - Satan Himself.
 - Demons

- Pushing on.
- Jesus gets up
 - demon possessed
 - moves toward Jesus
- Kisses him...

Luke 22:48 ESV

but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

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[Matthew 26:50](#) (ESV)

...“Friend, do what you came to do.”

- When mob sees
 - Judas kiss
 - they seize him
 - and arrest him.

Matthew 26:51 ESV

And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew

his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

- Peter,
 - said he would
 - stand by Jesus to death
 - gets sword out!
- Jesus rebukes him:

[Matthew 26:52-53](#) (ESV)

Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?”

- Jesus
 - wanted peaceful
 - arrest
 - solves the issue:

Luke 22:51 **ESV**

But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.

- Jesus was arrested...
 - immediately broke
 - ropes that bound him.
 - to heal servant.

- Amazing idea
 - could not break ropes
 - to save himself
 - could break ropes
 - to heal servant.

- Nothing could hold
 - Jesus from his
 - work of healing.
 - Even to the last.

The Flight

- When disciples see,
 - no point.
- Jesus offered to go
 - they run.

[Matthew 26:56](#) (ESV)

... Then all the disciples left him and fled.

- Jesus' prediction is fulfilled

Matthew 26:31 *ESV*

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

Summary

- In the Garden
 - Weight of Sin Begins
 - Jesus has Choice
 - He Could Sin

- He Could Quit.
- Father Turns Away.
- Angle Strengthens Him So He Doesn't Die There.
- God's Character of Love is Accurately Portrayed.
- Satan's Character of Evil is Clearly Seen.
- The Universe Understands the Great Controversy.

Application

- Prayer is the Greatest Tool Against Temptation.
- It is the Choices We Make Ahead of Time that Give Us Power During the Trial.

Appeal

- See God's Love.
- Fall in Love with Him.
- Make Choices to Follow Him While it's Easy.