

HAVE YOU BEEN TO GETHSEMANE?

(Luke 22:39-46)

- Introduction:
1. One of the most moving experiences recorded concerning the life of Christ took place in the garden of Gethsemane.
 2. Here we see the humanity of Jesus clearly presented.
 3. It was in Gethsemane that Jesus:
 - a. Began to be sorrowful (Matthew 26:37).
 - b. Was sorrowful unto death (Mark 15:34).
 - c. Was in agony (Luke 22:44).
 4. Why this record is so important is because we all have our “*Gethsemanes*.”
 - a. It may be a “*Gethsemane*” of trouble (Job 14:1-2).
 - b. It may be a “*Gethsemane*” of grief (I Thess. 4:13).
 - c. It may be a “*Gethsemane*” of illness (II Kings 20:1-6).
 - d. Or it may be a “*Gethsemane*” of loss: a job, friend, spouse...
 5. Whatever your “*Gethsemane*” may be, you should seek to follow the example Jesus left us in His “*Gethsemane*.”

I. Jesus Was Concerned About Others In Gethsemane

- A. He urged his disciples to “watch and pray” lest they fall (Mt. 26:41).
- B. When we cannot look beyond ourselves, we tend to magnify our problems.
- C. To make your load of life lighter, you need to take on the load of another.
- D. When thinking of others, we become grateful for what we have (Phil. 4:6-8).

II. Jesus Prayed To God While In Gethsemane

- A. Luke said that Jesus “*agonized*” in prayer (Luke 22:44).
- B. The Hebrew writer said that he offered prayers with “*vehement cries and tears*.” (Hebrews 5:7).
- C. If Jesus, as strong as He was, needed to pray, then surely we need to pray as well.
- D. Prayer is to be practiced so that we do not faint (Luke 18:1).
- E. James said that if we suffer, we should pray (James 5:13).
- F. (James 5:16; Ephesians 3:20) Prayer is effectual.

III. Jesus Looked To His Friends In Gethsemane

- A. Jesus took three of his closest friends with him (Matthew 26:37-38).
- B. Our friends can support and sustain us in our “*Gethsemanes*.”
- C. How many times have you heard someone say, “If it were not for...I don’t know what I would have done.”
- D. (Proverbs 17:17).

IV. Jesus Looked For Solitude In Gethsemane

- A. This does not contradict the above point, it compliments it.
- B. There is a time for friends, and there is a time to be alone.
- C. Jesus withdrew himself from his friends (Luke 22:41).
- D. There are times when we need to wait upon the Lord (Psalms 33:20).

V. Jesus Accepted God's Will In Gethsemane

- A. Jesus resigned Himself to God's will (Luke 22:42).
- B. He did not please Himself (Romans 15:3).
- C. Jesus did not insist that God change His will, but rather, He asked for strength to bear His will.
- D. The child of God believes that God can and does take bad things and bring about good through those bad things (Romans 8:28).

- Conclusion:
- 1. We can all expect some "*Gethsemanes*" in our life.
 - 2. But Jesus has left us an example of how to deal with such occasions.
 - 3. If you follow his advice and example, you will be victorious over your personal "*Gethsemane*."

THE INVITATION OF CHRIST

The word "*gospel*" literally means "good news". And that is exactly what Jesus offers to you and invites you to receive. The good news of Jesus is that He has paid the price for our sins. All He asks in return is for us to accept His gift of salvation. To do this, one must:

BELIEVE that Jesus is the Son of God and died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins (Hebrews 11:6; Ephesians 1:7).

REPENT or "turn away from" the sins you have committed in your past (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31).

CONFESS with your mouth that you believe Jesus to be Lord (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10).

BE BAPTIZED or immersed in water for the remission of all your past sins in obedience to the Lord's command (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:36-38).

RESOLVE from that point forward to obey and observe all of the Lord's teachings (Matthew 28:19-20; Hebrews 5:9).

If you want to respond to the above invitation of Jesus, then as we sing the invitation song following the sermon, please come to the front of the building, and we will assist you in your obedience to God.