

LESSONNOTES

March 20 & 22, 2020

MARCH MADNESS

MAINTAINING THE MISSION UNDER PRESSURE

1. The garden was a place of prayer.

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:36

Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives.

Luke 22:39

2. The garden was a place of privacy.

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and He said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and He became anguished and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." He went on a little farther and bowed with His face to the ground, praying.

Matthew 26:36 – 39

3. The garden was a place of passion.

He prayed more fervently, and He was in such agony of spirit that His sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

Luke 22:44

4. The garden was a place of humility.

He went on a little farther and bowed with His face to the ground, praying.

Matthew 26:39

5. The garden was a place of obedience.

He went on a little farther and bowed with His face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from Me. Yet I want Your will to be done, not Mine."

Matthew 26:39

6. The garden was a place of understanding.

Then He returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with Me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

Matthew 26:40 – 41

7. The garden was a place of repetition.

Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, Your will be done." *Matthew 26:42*

"When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again." *Jesus in Matthew 6:7*

When He returned to them again, He found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. So He went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. *Matthew 26:43 – 44*

8. The garden was a place of strengthening.

Then He came to the disciples and said, "Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners." *Matthew 26:45*

Then an angel from Heaven appeared and strengthened Him. *Luke 22:43*

Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet Him with a kiss." So Judas came straight to Jesus. "Greetings, Rabbi!" he exclaimed and gave Him the kiss. Jesus said, "My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for." Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear. "Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword. Don't you realize that I could ask My Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and He would send them instantly?" *Matthew 26:47 – 53*

But Jesus said, "No more of this." And He touched the man's ear and healed him. *Luke 22:51*

Then Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest Me? Why didn't you arrest Me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day." *Matthew 26:55*

Lesson #1: Daily prayer prepares us for effective emergency prayer.

Lesson #2: Prayer usually strengthens us more than it changes circumstances.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6 – 7*

Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the Holy Bible, **New Living Translation**, Second Edition Copyright © 1996, 2004, Tyndale Charitable Trust. All rights reserved.

301 N. 10th Street 618.242.4185 centralnow.com

**God, open my eyes to One person who needs
Your love today and give me the courage to share it.**