

Theme: The battle Jesus had to fight in the garden to willingly take our place in judgment is beyond our comprehension. But there, in communion with the Father, the battle was won! God gives the strength needed to fulfill His call to obedience and submission if we will take hold of it by His appointed means – honest, concerted prayer.

Background/introduction: At the heart of the 1st Great Awakening in this country and Great Britain – was a passionate commitment to concerted, communal and personal prayer for revival. The results were felt for 100 years.

I. The Battle Lines Are Drawn

A. For Jesus?

1. The hour has come
 - a. To the Mount of Olives
 - As was his custom (Judas knows where he will be)
 - No change of plans (Luke 9:58)
 - b. “Withdraws from the disciples
2. The hour of decision – the real battle??
 - a. To drink this cup?
 - Of wrath. Psalm 11:6; Psalm 75:8
 - b. To *know*
 - To offer his life so that others may live

B. For the Disciples

1. To desert him?
 - To fall to temptation
2. To stay awake! A battle of the flesh!

II. The Battle Is Joined (41,42)

NOTE: Our salvation hangs in the balance.

A. In His flesh

1. True humanity revealed
 - The temptation is real!
 - A fight for *life*
2. His “active” obedience
 - Fulfilling all the law of God
3. His “passive” obedience
 - In perfect submission to the will of God!

B. In spiritual warfare

1. To take the place of the guilty
- Expiation
2. To bear God's Wrath
- Propitiation
3. Separated from the Love of the Father

C. In prayer

1. With honesty
2. With affirmation and support
3. In agony

NOTE: We will never plumb the depths of the agony of Jesus in the Garden as the reality of infinite suffering in body and soul pierced his sinless humanity and eternal spirit!

III. The Battle Is Won!

A. In submission

1. He will not turn away! (Exodus 32:10-12)
2. But battle is won "Not my will, but yours, be done!"
3. He is given help.

NOTE: The Father does not grant the request for "another way" – but he gives Jesus the strength to trust and pursue what God called him to do!

B. In prayer

- With years of training

C. For us!

1. Victory is assured for us
2. We must pray!

IV. Our Fight Continues

- A. How will we face the trials, hardships and the testing of this life?
- By turning to the Father in prayer as Jesus did?

B. Do we pray..... Lord, is there another way??

- a. When I see the path He has set – but I want another one?
- b. When I see the path I want – but he has another one that is not yet clear?

- C. Prayer IS the battle! If we win the battle there, then nothing we face can turn us away from His plan or promise.