

Matthew 26 **The Hour of Darkness**
part 3

Main service
9/5/2021

I. From the Upper Room to the Mt. of Olives v 30 - 35

v 30 *they sung an hymn* hx: The Hallel Psalms 115-118 sp: **Colossians 3:16**

v 31 *Jesus prophesies & quotes an OT prophecy -* **Zechariah 13:7**

He was preparing them by letting them know that He knew beforehand that they would *be offended because of me.*

spir: Christ sees & knows our darkest hours before we experience them = **Psalm 69:5**

v 32 *after I am risen* : He shines the light of His resurrection and His regathering of them :
I will go before you into Galilee.

v 33 & 35 Peter's zealous self-confidence : spir: **1 Corinthians 10:12**

Peter's response was sincere, from love; yet he did not know himself.

v 34 Jesus foreknowledge - He calmly tells Peter that he will deny him in a few hours.

spir: Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. **Romans 8:26-27**

Heading into His darkest hour, Jesus was calm, quiet and full of compassion & tenderness toward His frail disciples.

Christ moved with a confident grace, while the disciples followed blundering & perplexed.

He didn't rebuke them, rather He gave them a solemn prophetic warning.

Jesus knew that beneath all their devotion to Him, their nature left them weak (v 40-41).

His prophetic words left an open door for them to return to Him after the third day.

II. Christ's Agony in the Garden v 36 - 46

v 36 *Gethsemane* - from Aramaic : "oil press"

The olive grove at the foot of the Mt. of Olives where Jesus prayed often, Luke 22:39.

Here we see:

v 37 (a) the Inner Circle : Peter, James and John (*the two sons of Zebedee*, Mt 4:21)

- the Raising of Jairus' daughter, Mark 5:37

- the Mt. of Transfiguration, Mark 9: 2

v 38 (b) the inner heart of the Saviour :

My soul is exceeding sorrowful **Isaiah 53:10-11**

Prayer # 1

v 39 *let this cup pass* : The cup of suffering God's wrath **Psalm 75:8**

Jesus is alone, surrounded by the darkness, the disciples a stones throw away; He now faces *the cup* alone. We can neither understand nor enter into this mystery of sorrow.

Hebrews 5:7-9

v 40 & 43 *disciples asleep* sp: Human Frailty & Weakness doct: **Isaiah 63:3**

v 41 *Watch and Pray* : Good practical spiritual advice for all saints.

Prayers # 2 & 3

v 42 & 44 *Father ... thy will be done* -

spoken twice by Christ : (a) for Himself & (b) for us Mt 6:10, **Lk 11:2**

In that moment of submissive prayer Christ 'took *the cup*'.

Despite the devil's temptation (Mt 4:8-9) and Peter's suggestion (Mt 16:22) to avoid it; He took *the cup* alone in the darkness of Gethsemane because it was God's will.

Here we have the unveiling of the passion and the agony of the God-man.



We see the crossing of the dual nature of Christ in these prayers.

The horizontal human nature represented in His first prayer : *let this cup pass*, v 39.

The vertical Divine nature found in His two following prayers : *thy will be done* !!!

v 45 *Sleep on now, take your rest* : And they went back to sleep,
and He watched over them !

He kept the midnight vigil alone over those sleepy disciples. **John 13:1**

He alone saw the procession of torches coming from the city to the garden.

The Lord is my shepherd ... He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...

he that keepeth thee will not slumber, behold he that Israel shall neither

slumber nor sleep ... The Lord is thy keeper. [Psalms 23:1-2 & 121:3-5]

III. Judas' Betrayal

v 47 - 51

Parallel Passages - Mark 14:43-51 Luke 22:47-53 John 18:1-13

Judas turned a holy kiss into an evil kiss. This *sign* (v 48) of Judas is typical of the way in which Jesus is generally *betrayed*. Scholars who undermine the King James Bible usually begin with a shallow endorsement and compliment of the Book before they undermine and betray it. There is the "Judas kiss" first, which is followed by the betrayal and belittling.

v 50 *Friend, wherefore art thou come...Judas betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss* Lk 22:48

v 51 *Behold, one of them = Simon Peter ... drew his sword = a mistake* **2 Cor 10:4**

v 53 - 54 *twelve legions of angels ... how shall the scriptures be fulfilled*

Jesus is more concerned with fulfilling the scriptures than delivering himself.

v 56 *all the disciples forsook him* He faced the Hour alone ... bound by His love for His sheep

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Ref: *The Gospel According to Matthew*, G. Campbell Morgan, 1929, Baker Book House