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³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

*'I will strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'*

³² But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

³³ Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

³⁵ Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"

And so said all the disciples.

Matthew 26:31-35

FOREWARNING GIVEN

1. Remembering an old prophecy

*'I will strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'*

Matthew 26:31 (Zechariah 13:7)

2. The Disciples would flee when the Lord is arrested

- a) This was foretold /prophesied
- b) The prophecy did not make them desert the Lord
- c) Many factors led to their desertion of the Lord:
 - i) Lack of courage
 - ii) Lack of faith

iii) Severe external circumstances

THE LORD'S CONFIDENCE

1. That He would be resurrected
2. He would see His Disciples in Galilee

RESPONSE OF PETER

1. Peter did not accept/ believe in what the Lord had said
2. He made a strong declaration
 - a) Even if all the other Disciples are stumbled
 - b) He would never be made to stumble
3. The Lord's quiet word to Peter
 - a) He foretold Peter's denial
 - b) Peter would deny the Lord Jesus three times before the cockerel crowed

ADAMANT DENIAL

1. From Peter

"Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You"

- a) Moving words
 - b) They express what Peter felt
2. From the other Disciples
 - a) They stood with Peter
 - b) They would not deny the Lord nor desert Him
3. Their hearts were in the right place
4. But how would their faith and strength measure up in times of great duress?

OUR CHALLENGE

1. To be aware of our weaknesses
2. To develop a stronger faith
3. To find courage to be faithful and true

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³⁶ Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."

³⁷ And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

³⁸ Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

⁴⁰ Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴² Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

⁴³ And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

⁴⁵ Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

Matthew 26:36-46

PRAYER IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE I

1. The Disciples

- a) Judas was not there with them

b) The Lord informed His Disciples that He was going to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane

c) The Lord singled out Three Disciples

i) Peter, James and John

ii) They were chosen out of the Twelve once again

iii) They were with the Lord Jesus at the Mount of Transfiguration Matthew 17

2. What were some of the reasons why they were chosen?

a) The Disciples had individual strengths and weaknesses

b) The Lord knew His Disciples well

c) They were chosen because of what they had displayed

i) Peter as the leader

ii) John was particularly close to the Lord Jesus

iii) James was very close to his brother

A DEEP SENSE OF SORROW

³⁷ And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

³⁸ Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

Matthew 26:37-38

1. Note the phrase

"And He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed" Matthew 26:37

a) He had never felt this sense of sorrow and distress before

b) This was a new experience

2. Understanding what it means to face death

*The pains of death surrounded me,
And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me;
I found trouble and sorrow. Psalm 116:3*

- a) "The pains of death"
- b) "The pangs of Sheol"
- c) The feelings/ emotions are assailed badly
- d) A sense of foreboding arose in the Lord Jesus

3. Sharing with the Three Disciples

- a) Personally
- b) Candidly
 - i) About the soul (the inner being)
 - ii) That it was exceedingly sorrowful
- b) He asked the Disciples to watch with Him
 - i) To be there with Him
 - ii) To pray alongside

THE LORD'S ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM OF DEEP SORROW

1. The final answer lies with the Lord Jesus Himself

- a) His own personal prayers matter
- b) His prayers must count for something
- c) He had taught much about Prayer
- d) He must now put into practise all that He had taught

2. The Lord must pray

- a) All alone
- b) This struggle was His entirely

- c) The Disciples did not feel His sorrow and distress
- d) They could not fathom what the Lord was experiencing
- e) They had never been great with reference to prayer

3. The Practice of Prayer in the past

- a) Praying for 40 days and nights Matthew 4/ Luke 4
- b) Praying in the early morning Mark 1:35
- c) Praying through the night Luke 6:12
- d) Withdrawing to pray regularly Luke 5:16

4. A trying time had come to test the Lord Jesus

- a) Would He succeed?
- b) Would He falter and fail?

OUR CHALLENGE

1. To check our faith in the Lord
2. To examine the strength of our prayer life
3. To be challenged to face problems with faith and prayer

Text: Matthew 26

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Matthew 26:36-46

PRAYER IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE II

1. The posture of prayer

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Matthew 26:39

- a) He went a little farther from His disciples
- b) He fell on His face
 - i) This is prostration
 - ii) It expresses deep humility
 - iii) It also expresses submission

2. Addressing God

- a) He had taught the Disciples to address God as "Father" Matthew 6:9
- b) He always spoke of God as "Father" John 5
- c) He prayed to God as Father in His deepest moment of distress
- d) His relationship with the Father
 - i) It was there naturally
 - ii) It was sustained lovingly
 - iii) It was treasured
 - iv) It was never taken for granted

3. The Plea of the Lord Jesus

"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Matthew 26:39

- a) If it is possible
 - i) A natural plea
 - ii) Facing pain, sorrow and death
- b) The cup
 - i) The cup of sorrow

- ii) The cup of suffering
- iii) The cup that leads to death
- c) The Will
 - i) The personal Will
 - ii) The perfect Will of God

CHECKING ON THE DISCIPLES

⁴⁰ Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 26:40-41

1. The Disciples were found sleeping
2. The Lord addressed Peter (this includes James and John)
 - a) Could he not watch with the Lord one hour?
 - b) They could not stay awake!
3. A word of exhortation
 - a) To make every effort "to watch and pray"
 - b) The human spirit is willing
 - c) But the human flesh is weak

OUR CHALLENGE

1. To learn how to "watch and pray"
2. To overcome the weakness of the flesh
3. To build a stronger spirit
4. To become more prayerful

INTERMEDIATE SUNDAY SCHOOL
Text: Matthew 26

23 November 2025

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³⁸ Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

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⁴⁰ Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

⁴² Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

⁴³ And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

⁴⁵ Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are *you* still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

Matthew 26:36-46

PRAYER IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE III

PRAYING A SECOND TIME

Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

Matthew 26:42

1. The Second Prayer was different now
 - a) If the Cup cannot pass away
 - b) The Lord Jesus must drink the Cup
2. Your will be done
 - a) The struggle was nearly over
 - b) Submission was being made
 - c) The Father's Will to be accepted

CHECKING ON THE DISCIPLES A SECOND TIME

⁴³ And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Matthew 26:43-44

1. The Disciples were "asleep again"
2. Their eyes were heavy
 - a) Their spirit had not prevailed
 - b) Their flesh had dominance
3. The Lord left them

THE THIRD PRAYER

1. The same words
 - a) Not the first prayer

b) But the second prayer

2. Total submission to the Father's Will

a) The Lord had accepted the Father's Will

b) There was no need to pray further on this matter

THE WILL OF GOD

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

1. To present the body to God as a living sacrifice
2. This is holy, acceptable and reasonable
3. The mind is not conformed to this world
4. The mind is transformed through being renewed
5. The will of God is understood and proven
 - a) Good
 - b) Acceptable
 - c) Perfect

CHECKING ON THE DISCIPLES THE THIRD TIME

⁴⁵ Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are *you* still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

Matthew 26:45-46

1. Are you still sleeping and resting?
2. The hour (of His death) is at hand
3. The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners
4. Rise... See... My betrayer is at hand

OUR CHALLENGE

1. To see how Prayer had helped the Lord Jesus
2. To be challenged to overcome the weakness of the flesh
3. To find courage and strength to face harsh circumstances of life

Text: Matthew 26

⁴⁷ And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

⁴⁸ Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."

⁴⁹ Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?"

Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

⁵¹ And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁵² But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

⁵⁴ How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

⁵⁵ In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.

⁵⁶ But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Matthew 26:47-56

THE BETRAYAL OF THE LORD JESUS

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⁴⁹ Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

Matthew 26:47-48

1. Judas, one of the Twelve

- a) He was described as "one of the Twelve"
- b) He was the one who had betrayed the Lord Jesus

2. The "great multitude" he led

- a) They were armed with swords and clubs
- b) They had been sent by the chief priests and elders

3. The sign of betrayal

- a) The sign was "a kiss"
- b) It was normal to greet people with a kiss
- c) Judas would hold the Lord fast and identify Him for the soldiers

4. The Lord's response

- a) "Friend, why have you come?"
- b) The Lord continued to be gracious and kind
- c) Why indeed had Judas come with soldiers to arrest the Lord?

THE ANGRY RESPONSE OF PETER

⁵¹ And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁵² But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

Matthew 26:51-52

1. One of those who were with the Lord Jesus

He was identified as Peter (John 18:10-11)

2. He struck a servant of the high priest and cut off his ear
3. Mercifully the Lord healed him
4. He also restrained Peter from further physical resistance

CALM ASSURANCE

⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

⁵⁴ How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

Matthew 26:53-54

1. If the Lord wanted help
 - a) He would pray to the Father
 - b) God would have sent 12 legions of angels to protect the Son
2. Scripture must be fulfilled
 - a) Things must happen this way
 - b) The Lord will be arrested

ADDRESSING THE MULTITUDE

⁵⁵ In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.

⁵⁶ But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Matthew 26:55-56

1. Why had they come with sword and clubs?
2. Had they come against a robber?
3. He had taught in the Temple but they had not seized Him then
4. Scriptures were being fulfilled!

5. The Disciples of the Lord Jesus fled

a) Zechariah 13:7 was fulfilled

b) What the Lord had forewarned had come to pass

OUR CHALLENGE

1. Would we betray the Lord Jesus?

2. Would we flee from the Lord in times of distress?

3. May we pray and seek strength and courage!