

**#166**

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

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

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

*<sup>39</sup> 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."*

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

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

*<sup>42</sup> 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."*

*<sup>43</sup> And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.*

*<sup>44</sup> So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.*

*<sup>45</sup> 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.*

*<sup>46</sup> 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**

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

*<sup>38</sup> 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