

The Prayers of Jesus
Lent 2021 Bible Studies
The Garden of Gethsemane
Matthew ch.26 v.26-36

Each Wednesday in Lent we will be hosting a Bible Study via zoom which will be recorded and available to watch in our normal channels. We will also email these handy study notes each week to allow those without zoom to join in too, we look forward to your company as we journey towards Easter in these uncertain times. God Bless you all, Mark & Emma

The Setting

This scene of intense prayers follows the Upper Room Passover Meal in which Jesus again predicts His death and betrayal.

The Garden on the Mount of Olives seems to be a frequently visited spot (Judas knew exactly where to lead the armed gang to arrest Jesus)! The name – Gethsemane - means oil press, a very fitting name for the scene that unfolds.

Jesus takes the inner circle of disciples with him but is about a stone's throw away as He prays.

The Prayers and suffering of Jesus

You might like to read the passage again very slowly and note down all the descriptions and details.

Jesus had faced and was about to face many perils and dangers He was always calm and collected. What is this outpouring of emotion all about?

To ask this question in the language of the passage, what was the cup that horrified Jesus so?

It might help to sharpen our thinking to read the following verses Isaiah 53 v 6 and 2 Corinthians 5 v 21

“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak,” has become a title for much more than the behaviour and lack of support Jesus received from His friends during His time of need. Are there aspects of your Christian life that can be described in this way?

It is interesting that as this scene unfolds, despite everything the disciples had seen and been told, they are found asleep! What does this say about the human nature in general and perhaps the temptations Christians face more specifically?

To Conclude

As we conclude our first Lenten study what are you most thankful for?

A final prayer :- Loving Christ, how alone you must have felt in that garden prayer time. For the pain I have caused you. For the times I've abandoned you, I am so sorry. Strengthen my roots in your words and sacrifice that when faced with the extremes and challenges of faith and life, I might stand firm too in God the Father's will.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen