

## **Matthew 26:36-46**

As Jesus looks toward the cross, he experiences an agony so deep he feels like he is going to die.

In his deepening sorrow, Jesus, the God-Man, looks to his closest disciples for comfort and partnership.

Even as the agony of going to the cross weighs on Jesus, he carries himself with humility and submission to the Father.

Jesus genuinely asks for another way to complete God's Will, yet submits to his Father.

The disciples sleep because they are unaware of the looming danger.

Having prepared himself through prayer, Jesus is now concerned for his disciples to be ready as well.

Jesus' second and third prayer show a further resolve to obey God.

“My will, not thine, be done,” turned Paradise into a desert. “Thy will, not mine be done,” turned the desert into Paradise, and made Gethsemane the gate of heaven. (E. de Pressensé, D.D.)<sup>1</sup>

Jesus bears the weight alone as the disciples fail three times.

With the temptation now conquered through prayer, Jesus moves toward danger to be mocked, beaten, and crucified by the people he came to save.

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<sup>1</sup> Exell, Joseph S. *The Biblical Illustrator: Matthew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1952.

## **Questions:**

What was confusing, convicting, or encouraging from this study of Scripture?

How often are you aware that you are in a continual spiritual battle?

Jesus is fully God and fully man, which of those is harder for you to comprehend?

Gethsemane literally means olive press. Jesus was pressed all the way to death for our sin. His suffering brought us our salvation. Does this change the way that you view your suffering and hardships? Do you see them as tools in God's hands to produce more genuine faith in your life (1 Peter 1:6-7)?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16—Does it help you to know that Jesus is a high priest who understands your weaknesses? Does it help you in your daily walk with God to know that Jesus experienced the full depth of human agony? Does Jesus' night in Gethsemane shape the way you cry out to God when life gets difficult?

Though he did not need them, Jesus invited the disciples to join his mission. God doesn't need us either, but he invites us to be on mission with him. How does it affect you to know that God wants you to join him in his work to see people live with Christ as Lord?