

EASTER EXAMINED

CHRIST CAPTURED- GETHSEMANE

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Matthew 26:36-56

In our passage, we hear about Jesus praying in a garden. It's a garden of olive trees at a place called Gethsemane.

Gethsemane means "oil press." It was probably a place near many olive trees that had a press used for pressing oil out of olives.

We will see here that Jesus is being pressed with the reality of what is to come.

We see sorrow and betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The Sorrow And Suffering Of Jesus

In Matthew 26:36-46, we see Jesus experiencing intense sorrow.

Verse 39: *"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me."*

The "cup" to which Jesus refers is the suffering He was about to endure. It's as if Jesus was being handed a cup full of bitterness with the expectation that He drink all of it.

... You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the same cup of suffering I am about to drink?" (Matthew 20:22, NLT)

Jesus is fully God, but He is also fully human. His human nature, though perfect, still struggled with the need to accept the torture and shame that awaited Him.

Matthew 26:4, Luke 22:44, Mark 8:31, Isaiah 53:5-10

Jesus' prayer to "let this cup pass from me" contains two important qualifications. First, He prays, "If it is possible." If there was any other way to redeem mankind, Jesus asks to take that other way. The events following His prayer show that there was no other way; Jesus Christ is the only possible sacrifice to redeem the world

John 1:29, Acts 4:12, Hebrews 10:14, Revelation 5:9

Second, Jesus prays, *"Yet not as I will, but as you will."* Jesus was committed to the will of God, body, mind, and soul. The prayer of the righteous is always dependent on the will of God.

Matthew 6:10

In Gethsemane, Jesus conquered the flesh and kept it in subjection to the spirit. To desire righteousness and obedience, even when the flesh is screaming out against it is not sinful; it is human.

Hebrews 2:17, Luke 19:10

The Weakness Of The Disciples

Verses 40-45

There is within us the same temptation that led to Judas betraying Jesus, the same fear that led to Peter denying Jesus, and the same panic that led to the disciples abandoning Jesus. We must understand our own weakness. We must cling to the truth that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. We must beg God, by His Holy Spirit, to keep us close to Him, focused on Him, and faithful to Him.

The Fulfilment Of Scripture

Jesus knew that this moment was coming, He knew that this was His purpose, and He knew that this was a fulfilment of the prophecies concerning Him.

Verses 47-56.

Jesus knew Judas would betray Him.

His purpose on earth, and the events leading to the end of His life on earth. Everything is coming together. Jesus' time has come.

Conclusion

Hebrews 12:2

1. Thank Jesus for His faithfulness.
2. Pray for your faithfulness.
3. Call others to faithfulness.