



“Thursday Evening: Agony in the Garden”
February 28, 2021
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Mark 14:26, 32-42 (NLT)

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives... They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, “Sit here while I go and pray.” He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. “Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

Then he returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before. When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. And they didn’t know what to say.

When he returned to them the third time, he said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”

THURSDAY EVENING – JERUSALEM – ACROSS THE KIDRON VALLEY

I. JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES END THE SEDER MEAL WITH A HYMN

“In my distress I prayed to the Lord, and the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?... I will not die; instead, I will live to tell what the Lord has done.... My enemies did their best to kill me, but the Lord rescued me. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory.”

Psalm 118:5-6,17,13-14 (NLT)

II. LEAVING THE UPPER ROOM THEY WALK THROUGH THE KIDRON VALLEY

- Kidron Valley is also known as the Valley of Jehoshaphat
- The valley of the Last Judgment

“Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side.”

Joel 3:12 (NIV)

III. THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE – ABOUT MIDNIGHT

- Located on the Mt of Olives, across from the Beautiful Gate
 - Beautiful Gate – Jewish tradition Messiah will enter
 - Sealed in 1541 by Sultan Suleiman I
- Olive trees dating to the time of Jesus still stand
- The Church of All Nations
 - Built over the traditional site where Jesus prayed
 - Ceiling of church painted to resemble the night sky

IV. THE ANGUISH OF JESUS

- Jesus confided in Peter, James and John and said, *“My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death.”* (v.34)
- After Jesus leaves them, he *“...threw himself face down on the ground to pray.”*
Matthew 26:39 (TEV)
- *“Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”* (v. 36)
 - Fighting off temptation is not easy, even for mature Christians. What have you been running away from that the Lord is nudging you to do?