

## **Mathew 26:31-16: Jesus Prays.**

I. (31-35) Jesus predicts a fall away.

Jesus knew that Peter and the others would fail in what they thought was their strong area - courage and boldness. He was already looking beyond the cross, *the joy set before Him* mentioned in **Hebrews 12:2**.

**Zechariah 13:7** - *“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion,” says the LORD of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones.*

**1 Corinthians 10:12** - *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.* When we think we are beyond the reach of some sins, we are ready for a fall.

II. (36-46) Jesus Prays.

**Gethsemane** means "olive press." There olives from the neighborhood were crushed for their oil. So too, the Son of God would be crushed here. Jesus was disturbed; in part from knowing the physical horror waiting for Him at the cross. But more so, Jesus was distressed at the spiritual horror waiting for Him on the cross. Jesus would stand in the place of guilty sinners and receive all the spiritual punishment sinners deserve.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**- *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Yet in this hour of special agony, God the Father sent special help to His Son.

**Luke 22:43-44** - *Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Of course it was not *impossible* for God to atone for sin and redeem lost humanity apart from the perfect, wrath-satisfying sacrifice that Jesus prepared Himself for in Gethsemane. The **cup** is a powerful picture of the wrath and judgment of God. Jesus became, as it were, an enemy of God, who was judged and forced to drink the **cup** of the Father's fury, so we would not have to drink from that cup.

The struggle at the cross was first won in *prayer* in Gethsemane. Jesus **fell on His face, and prayed.** **John 17.**

- i. Prayer is asking God to accomplish His will.
- ii. Prayer gives us strength for the adversities ahead.
- iii. Prayer shields us from our enemy, Satan.