

## In The Garden (Mt. 26:36-46)

A few days prior to Gethsemane Jesus had shared with Philip and Andrew, **Jn. 12:23** *The hour is come ... <sup>27</sup> Now is my soul troubled.* ... The Saviour was anticipating the great volume of the burden He was to bear. His Father was preparing Him to be sacrificed as the Lamb on the altar of Calvary. In the Garden, let's consider ...

**THE PLEADING OF THE SAVIOUR** There is only one Mediator between God and man ... and that's Jesus! There was only one Saviour Who has <sup>I Peter 2:22</sup> *made [our] peace [with God] through the blood of his cross* ... and that's Jesus. Upon Him was *piled* all the punishment for our sin. The crushing of His soul, - for so Isaiah described it, <sup>Is. 53:5</sup> *he was bruised for our iniquities*, - began in Gethsemane. Was He prepared for it? Yes, but at the same time, - from a human perspective, - how could anyone become ready for those next hours our Saviour endured ... and yet Jesus knew precisely all that was required of Him. Nevertheless, the thoughts going through His head ... the darkness penetrating His mind ... the fear of His Father's impending wrath ... let's not underestimate what He was going through, <sup>Ps. 22:1</sup> *why art thou so far from helping me ...? <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. ... <sup>11</sup> Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.* ... He knew His Heavenly Father was in control in Gethsemane, but He also knew the reality of the burden which was shortly to be laid upon Him.

Up until Gethsemane, He had never been lonely. Before He came to earth, in Heaven He was surrounded by countless numbers willing to do His every bidding. Even when He was in the wilderness, - following His temptation, - the angels came and ministered to Him (Mk. 1:13). At His baptism, the Father and the Holy Spirit were there ... but in the Garden, He felt so alone. ...

He ought to have had the company of the disciples, but they were asleep. On the other hand, He knew there *was* a body of men 'wide awake' and making their way towards Him ... but they were coming from the high priest's palace, to arrest Him. And He knew the next time He would walk out of the Garden of Gethsemane, He would be *led out* for they would bring Him back up the hill into Jerusalem, shackled by Roman chains, a prisoner of men. He knew that before the next dawn would arise He would be taken before the Jewish authorities and falsely accused. He knew that on the Friday morning Pilate, the Roman governor, would condemn Him to death. He knew He would immediately be taken out of the prison cell humiliated and made to carry a cross. ... He knew He would be despised as a common criminal. ... And before it all took place, we find **The Pleading Of The Saviour** to His Father ...

## THE PAIN OF THE SAVIOUR

Gethsemane simply means ‘an oil press’, and it was where the Father ‘pressed the life out of’ the Lord Jesus. There the Father’s wrath tread the wine-press of His Son. Yes, I know He took Peter, James and John that little bit further with Him, - but they went asleep ... There, in the darkness, among the olive trees, Jesus, - just a few yards away, - *alone*, fell on His face, and He prayed knowing all that was coming upon Him ... He was being trodden in the wine-press.

He’s there doing His Father’s business, - **Jn. 9:4** I must work the works of him that sent me, and He went down on His knees, **Mt. 26:39** and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, **O my Father** ... but it is a one-way conversation ... In true humanity He pleaded with His Father, **my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me** ... Father, if there is a way ... if there is any other means whereby the work of salvation can be accomplished, Father, **if it be possible** ... He wasn’t putting on an act. He wasn’t pretending. ... Jesus was in great pain of spirit earnestly pleading with His Father for another way. ... Consider how He was going to take upon Himself the punishment for our sin. ... Jesus, Who hated sin, in Gethsemane He contemplated not just the punishment for a few sins, but the eternity’s worth of punishment of all His Redeemed! ... No wonder He was **Mt. 26:38** exceeding sorrowful, even unto death!

He fell on His knees, His face touching the ground ... alone, in Gethsemane, the Son of God from Heaven’s glory, - darkness abounded, Jesus surrounded! ... **Ps. 22:14** I am poured out like water ... my heart is like wax ... if there is another way, let me take it instead! ... But look! Jesus knew, from the foundation of the world, this dark night would come and *He came to earth to shine in the darkness!* ... These were the moments He, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, had planned in eternity ... And for that reason He was willing to pray ... *not once, but twice* (vv.42,44), **O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.** ... That’s how He had taught His disciples to pray, **Mt. 6:9** Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **10** Thy kingdom come. *Thy will be done* ... He was doing His Father’s will ... ***The Pleading of the Saviour, The Pain of the Saviour*** ...

## THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAVIOUR

... He can hear the enemy coming, - not just a dozen ... but hundreds coming to arrest Him ... You would have heard them! Jesus had said earlier, **Jn. 14:30** the prince of this world cometh ... Satan was on his way! The enemy was rallying his forces to the conflict beginning in Gethsemane... the serpent preparing to bruise the heel of the Saviour (Gen. 3:15).

He could hear them on their way, - the disciples couldn't of course, because they were asleep. They had been told to watch, but they were sleeping on duty ... and the enemy came in, - and in God's will, - they took hold of His only-begotten Son. And Jesus knew what was ahead ... this was it starting, - His Father's will provided no way out. They grabbed Him, chained Him, pushed Him, shoved Him ... This was it, Jesus knew all that was about to happen! ... When He saw them coming in the darkness, He knew all about how they would scourge Him, and spit on Him, and how they would make a crown of thorns and place it on His head ... and He knew how they would nail Him to a cross ... and a whole lot more that's not even mentioned in the Scriptures.

Jesus knew what was coming! He knew these evil men would pollute the air with their hatred for Him! ... Look where He was before He was arrested ... When He returned to His disciples He found them asleep ... and then when He went back to His Father, there was nothing but silence. ... But, what *could* His Father say?! ... This was the only plan whereby God would save lost, hell-deserving sinners.

And yes, Jesus was exceedingly sorrowful, ... there *are* degrees of grief, ... and this was more than anyone could measure. This was how our sin made our Saviour! And yet, in all this, He was determined to see out the eternal plan of salvation by taking upon Himself our guilt for He loved us with a perfectly eternal love. Even in the garden, the Saviour never thought of running away or calling for an angel to take His place. He never thought of abandoning the altar of Calvary, for in the preparation of Gethsemane He was as the Lamb. Yes, He was in chains, surrounded by the soldiers, but it was as if the Father was carrying Him up that hill and into the city ... It was as if the Father was preparing to present Him on the altar ... Isaac accompanied his father up Mount Moriah, and Isaac submitted to the will of his father on the altar ... But here is a greater than Isaac for, in the will of His Heavenly Father, Jesus was being handed over. ... *The perseverance of the Saviour.*

**The Saviour's Pleading, the Saviour's Pain, the Saviour's Perseverance. ...**

Was it for me He wept and prayed,  
 My load of sin before Him laid,  
 That night within Gethsemane?  
 Was it for me, that agony?

Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
 Lest I forget Thine agony;  
 Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
 Lead me to Calvary.