

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

APRIL 14, 2021

MATTHEW 26:36-46

INTRODUCTION:

1. If we want to know how to pray, there are two ways we can learn.
 - a) We can learn from the instruction of Jesus. (Luke 11.1).
 - b) We can learn from the example of Jesus. (John 17.1ff; Matt. 26.36ff)
2. In Gethsemane, we learn how to pray during times of great sorrow. [READ TEXT]
 - a) What did Jesus do before He prayed? Place (v. 36), Pain (v. 38), Posture (v. 39)
 - b) What did Jesus do as He prayed? Feelings (v. 39), Father (v. 39), Faith (v. 39)
3. In the remaining verses, we learn about what Jesus did after He prayed.

I. STRENGTH

- A. **LUKE 22.43:** *“Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.”*
 1. In His darkest hour, why only one angel? (Luke 2.13,14; 1 Tim. 3.16; Matt. 4.11)
 2. This one angel came and helped to strengthen Jesus.
 - a) Strengthen (enischuo): It carries the idea of making one capable. To enable.
 - b) The angel enabled Jesus to work through His suffering and do what He had to do.
- B. **HEBREWS 1.14:** Angels are *“ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation.”* When we pray, angels are sent to help us.
 1. In Psalm 91.11,12, God promises to send angels to take care of His people.
 2. Knowing that my problems are in the hands of God gives me peace of mind which strengthens me enabling me to keep going. (Phil. 4.6,7)

II. SORROW

- A. **LUKE 22.44:** *“And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly”*
 1. Earnestly (ekteino): Ek – “out”; Teino – “to stretch.” It carries the idea of straining your muscles. He fell on His face and then strained His muscles with intensity.
 2. **LUKE 22.44:** *“Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.”* He tightened His muscles and strained so hard, it broke His blood vessels.
 3. This was after an angel came and strengthened Him.
- B. With a heart of great sorrow, we can pray and have the peace of knowing that God will do what is in our best interest. But we will still have lingering feelings of pain.
 1. The apostle Paul pleaded three times to have his infirmity removed. (2 Cor. 12.7,8)
 - a) He was not granted his request. (2 Cor. 12.9)
 - b) His attitude changed as he was able to accept and move on. (2 Cor. 12.9)
 - c) Yet He still felt the sting of his infirmity. It still troubled him. (2 Cor. 12.10)
 2. I can expect that my pain and sorrow will not go away when I pray. But I can change my attitude about it and have the strength to move forward.

III. SOLITUDE

- A. **LUKE 22.46:** *“Why do you sleep? Rise and pray lest you enter into temptation”*
 1. Why were the disciples asleep? (Luke 22.45)
 2. Jesus rebuked them for not staying with Him. (Matt. 26.40,43-46)
- B. There is nothing worse than feeling alone to face the hardships of life.
 1. Jesus felt forsaken, abandoned even by God. (Matt. 27.46)
 2. Yet He still put His trust in God. (Luke 23.46)