

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS**  
**MARCH 31, 2021**  
**MATTHEW 26:36-46**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. **MATTHEW 26.36:** *“Then...”* The following account happens just after Jesus ate the Passover, instituted the Lord’s Supper, identified His betrayer, and made a prediction.
  - a) Jesus predicted that His twelve apostles would abandon Him. (Matt. 26.31; John 17.12)
  - b) Jesus predicted Peter’s denial. (Matt. 26.34)
  - c) Jesus encouraged Peter to *“strengthen your brethren”* (Luke 22.31,32).
2. The garden of Gethsemane is the darkest moment in the life of our Lord. It was not Golgotha, but Gethsemane that the battle for our souls would be won or lost. (cf. Heb. 5.7-9)

**I. HIS PLACE**

- A. **MATTHEW 26.36:** *“Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane”*
  1. Gethsemane was on the Mount of Olives. (Matt. 26.30; Mark 14.32; Luke 22.39)
    - a) Gethsemane originates from an Aramaic word meaning “wine press.”
    - b) **JOHN 18.1:** *“there was a garden”*
  2. **LUKE 22.39:** *“as He was accustomed.”*
    - a) Accustomed (ethos): “habit” [Strong]. It is where we get “ethics.” The idea is a habit that is in keeping with your moral character.
    - b) Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray in keeping with His character. (cf. John 18.2)
- B. Do you have a place where you go to pray? (Matt. 6.5,6)

**II. HIS PAIN**

- A. **MATTHEW 26.37:** *“And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee”*
  1. In a time of great sorrow, Jesus wanted His friends with Him. (Mark 14.33)
    - a) These three disciples made up His inner circle. (Matt. 17.1,2; Mark 5.37,40)
    - b) He saw His disciples as His friends. (Mark 3.13,14; Matt. 9.15; John 15.13,14)
  2. **MATTHEW 26.37:** *“and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.”*
    - a) Sorrowful (lypeo): To be grieved, experience grief. Jesus was grieving.
    - b) Deeply distressed (ademoneo): To be full of heaviness. Jesus had a heavy heart.
  3. **MATTHEW 26.38:** *“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.”*
    - a) “My soul” refers to His inner being.
    - b) His emotional pain was felt down to the very core of His being.
- B. Do you feel real grief? Jesus understands. (Heb. 4.15,16)

**III. HIS POSTURE**

- A. **MATTHEW 26.39:** *“He went a little farther and fell on His face”*
  1. The verb form indicates a pointed action.
  2. Jesus took three positions when He prayed.
    - a) **MARK 14.35:** *“He went a little farther, and fell on the ground”*
    - b) **LUKE 22.41:** *“He knelt down and prayed.”*
- B. His posture suggests humility and dependance on God.
  1. **HEBREWS 5.7:** *“when He had offered up prayers and supplications”*
    - a) Prayers (deesis): The prayer of a beggar.
    - b) Supplications (hiketerias): A favor, request.
  2. Jesus had nothing to offer to God in exchange. (cf. 1 Tim. 2.8)