

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 March 2017..... Matthew 14-16 Who is this Jesus?
- 2) 12 March..... Matthew 17-18 Is Jesus Fully God?
- 3) 19 March..... Matthew 19-20 What is Required?
- 4) 26 March..... Matthew 21:1-17 More Than a Prophet?
- 5) 02 April..... Matthew 21:18-46..... What Happens If I Reject Jesus?
- 6) 09 April..... Matthew 22-23 Offered to All?
- 7) 16 April..... Matthew 28:1-15 Where is Jesus?
- 8) 23 April..... Matthew 24-25 What About the Future?
- 9) 30 April..... Matthew 26:1-30..... How Do We Remember?
- 10) 07 May..... Matthew 26:31-46 Do I Have the Strength?**
- 11) 14 May..... Matthew 26:47-75..... Loyal to Whom?
- 12) 21 May..... Matthew 27 Crucified for What?
- 13) 28 May..... Matthew 28:16-20..... What Do We Do Now?

INTRODUCTION

• **Matthew 26:31-46.** We begin the final countdown to our Lord's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. We see Peter proclaim undying loyalty to His Savior, then we see our Savior's human side as He prays 3x for God to come up with a less painful way to die.

Passage	Comments
Matthew 26:31-35	<p>Desertion by the 12 Apostles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v31. Jesus makes another bold assertion that everyone will leave Him at a time when He would need them the most – when He is stricken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How can we prevent ourselves from backsliding? ◆ Is will power or positive thinking the way to do it? ◆ Firm commitment and self-discipline helps (Job 31:1), but we also need the strength that only the Holy Spirit can provide to our “inner man,” which only comes through sincere prayer Eph 3:14-16 • vv32-35. Peter, of course, makes the claim – “Not Me” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What would it have taken for the Apostles not to have forsaken Jesus, their friend and Savior? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> More time in prayer? <input type="checkbox"/> More love for Him? <input type="checkbox"/> More will power? <input type="checkbox"/> All or <input type="checkbox"/> none of the above?
Jesus' Circle of Friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus had numerous faithful disciples (70) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ These were sent out to heal & to preach...Lk 10:1-17 • Jesus worked closer with His chosen Apostles (12) • From these, He had an Inner circle of friends (3) – Peter, James, & John <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ They witnessed the Lord's resurrection of the daughter of Jarius, a synagogue leader Mark 5:37 ◆ They witnessed the Lord's Transfiguration... Mat 17:1 ◆ Now they were privileged to observe how the Lord prayed intensely even when His desires were not answered, if they could only stay awake Mat 26:37 • This is a decent model to follow for Sunday Schools, Bible Studies, and mentoring efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ It's OK for S/S and Bible Studies to grow 50+ ◆ Leaders then watch for a dozen or so for closer fellowship and more serious disciplining ◆ Leaders further develop a handful of tight friends
26:36-39	<p>The Garden of Gethsemane – Special Time of Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv38-39. Jesus' humanity comes out strongly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ He is “deeply grieved to the point of death” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What would this equate to for us, if anything? ◆ This redemption plan was devised in eternity past, so was Jesus having cold feet or second thoughts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He sure was – because He was 100% human ◆ Remember this...even God had not experienced such pain before. God experienced emotional pain, assuredly, when Satan & when Adam & Eve fell, BUT not physical pain on such a scale... Heb 2:17-18

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note. Luke's Gospel reports no words of Jesus other than to add the description of “being in anguish, [Jesus] prayed more fervently, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground”..... Luke 22:44
How did Jesus Pray?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus sought solitude to pray Mt 14:23; Mk 1:35; Lk 5:16; 6:12 • Jesus prayed all night before selecting His Apostles Luke 6:12 • Jesus prayed publicly with thanksgiving John 11:41-42 • Jesus prayed 3 words to raise the dead John 11:43 • Jesus prayed with His eyes open John 17:1 • Jesus laid down to pray Mt 26:38-39 • Jesus stated, “whenever you stand praying...” Mark 11:25 • Jesus knelt and prayed Luke 22:41 • Jesus prayed fervently with “great drops of blood” Luke 22:44 • On the Cross, Jesus “cried out to God with a loud voice” Mt 27:46
26:40-45	<p>Jesus Finds His Closest Friends Sleeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v41. How does watching & praying keep us out of sin? • Are we alert in our spiritual walk? Do we see hurting people who need us to be awake & pray with them? • Do we prefer to sleep, to watch TV or play on computer instead of being in God's word or with hurting people?
How Weak is Our Flesh?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being tested or tempted to sin is not a sin. • Jesus was tested in every way that we are, yet was without sin Php 2:7; Heb 2:14; 4:15 • Judas, like Cain of old, had to choose whether to master sin in his life (Greed) or succumb to it... Gen 4:7 • What is our besetting sin(s)? Are we mastering it? • Mastering sin is more than mustering up our will power • How do we submit to God so Satan will flee, & willingly draw near to God for Him to draw near to us . Jms 4:7-8
26:46	<p>Praying Time is Over... “GET UP”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's a time to pray, and there's a time to cease from praying and start some action • DL Moody was on a boat that began to take on water. Some of his friends asked him if they should begin praying. Moody said, “Oh No! It's time to bail”

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- Praying doesn't always change bad circumstances, but praying always changes the one praying, especially aligning them to God's will. We too can pray bold, intense, effective prayers...
- We have no power to accomplish great things without first praying, and there will come a time when we won't have time to pray. So, pray early, pray often, pray continuously – then “GET UP”!

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 26:47-75. We consider the arrest and trial of Jesus, and how many biblical commandments and principles were shattered. Then we look at the impact of Peter's denial of His Lord.

