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
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**Desertion by the 12 Apostles**

*Matthew 26:31-35*

- Jesus had numerous faithful disciples (70)
  - 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
- 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
  - 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 discipling
  - Leaders further develop a handful of tight friends

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| **Praying Time is Over... “GET UP”** | v41. 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” |

**Jesus Finds His Closest Friends Sleeping**

- v45. What will we do now? 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?**

- Being tested or tempted to sin is not a sin.
- Jesus was tested in every way that we are, yet was without sin
- Jude, like Cain of old, had to choose whether to master sin in his life (Greed) or succumb to it...
- What is our besetting sin(s)? Are we mastering it?
- Mastering sin is no less than mastering 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

**Jesus’ Circle of Friends**

- v32-35. Peter, of course, makes the claim – “Not Me”
  - What would it have taken for the Apostles not to have forsaken Jesus, their friend and Savior? ☐ More time in prayer? ☐ More love for Him? ☐ More will power? ☐ All or ☐ none of the above?

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**The Garden of Gethsemane – Special Time of Prayer**

*Matthew 26:36-39*

- vv38-39. Jesus’ humanity comes out strongly
  - He is “deeply grieved to the point of death”
  - 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?
    - 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

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.