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BIBLE STUDY

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"WATCH AND PRAY"

Matthew 26:31-46

Matthew 26:31 "Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad."

This is an interesting Scripture. Judas was not now with them and had already gone to do his deceptive work. Jesus was speaking to the remaining eleven. He told them that for a time they, too, would lose their faith and some would sin. Jesus is the Shepherd. The Shepherd leads His sheep. When the Shepherd is not there to lead them, the sheep scatter. Fear would grip the disciples and cause them to flee. Not only would one of them betray him, but all of them would fall away just as Scripture foretold.

> ***Zechariah 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones."***
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> ***Matthew 26:56 "But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled."***

Matthew 26:32 "But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee."

Jesus continued to promise that He would rise again. The disciples seemed to just ignore this, or else they did not believe Him. He was even telling them that He would come to them in Galilee.

Matthew 26:33 "Peter answered and said unto him, Though all [men] shall be offended because of thee, [yet] will I never be offended."

When Peter forcefully vowed to stick with Jesus until the end, Jesus zeroed in on Peter's approaching fall. Peter was brave at this point because Jesus had not yet been taken by the authorities. Pretty soon he would be put to the test. We will see in the face of death, and a cruel death at that, if he would still feel as brave. Peter was saying in essence, they may all run, but I won't.

Matthew 26:34 "Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."
Matthew 26:35 "Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples."

Jesus again had foreknowledge of Peter and his actions when he was frightened. He said, Peter, you will not only deny me, but it will be tonight, and you won't deny me once, but three times. He would deny Jesus that night before the rooster crowed three times. When Jesus had spoken of

the denial, Peter knew that the desire of his heart was to stand with Jesus. He said over again, I will not fail you; I will stand, and he had every intention of doing just that. It would not be many hours until this would be tested. Peter didn't believe such a thing could happen, but he clearly didn't know himself very well. The omniscience of Jesus saw where the dangerous pride of Peter would lead.

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Matthew 26:36 "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder."
Matthew 26:37 "And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy."
Matthew 26:38 "Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me."
When they had arrived at Gethsemane, a garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem, Jesus told Peter and the two sons of Zebedee (James and John) that he was deeply grieved. He was in anguish as he considered the wrath of God that would be poured out on him as he bore the sins of the world on the cross. Since the first Adam's fall occurred in a garden the last Adam entered into a garden to bring fallen man back into God's garden of fellowship through his substitutionary atonement. Since the first Adam brought sin into the world by means of a tree, the last Adam would be crucified on a tree to bring salvation.

Romans 5:15-19
15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.
16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.
17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)
18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.
19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22
21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."
Olive oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Jesus, while He was housed in His body here on the earth, from time to time went aside to pray to the Father. He wanted to be alone with the Father, so He asked the disciples to wait at the bottom of the hill. Jesus again, had taken Peter, James and John with Him. They were carried closer to where He would go and pray than the others, but they did not go all the way. Jesus was living in a body of flesh, and He would feel pain as any

other person; so this was a sorrowful time. What He was really asking these three to do was to pray and watch with Him. John was John the beloved. He loved Jesus so dearly. Peter and James had been with Jesus on so many special occasions, and they, too, loved Jesus. These three seemed to have a special closeness with Him.

Matthew 26:39 "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou [wilt]."
In his distress, he prayed three times to his Father. Though in his humanity, he preferred that the cup of suffering might pass, he voluntarily submitted himself to his Father's will. Jesus was not looking forward to the pain and humiliation of the cross. He was in the flesh and knew there would be great pain involved in this type of death; but I believe more than the pain, He dreaded becoming sin itself and having the Father turn His back to Him, if even for a moment. You see, He (Jesus) would take on the sin of the entire world, so that sin and death might be destroyed.

> ***Hebrews 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."***

Matthew 26:40 "And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?"
Despite Jesus's urging, the disciples were unable to stay awake with him. Though he exhorted them to pray that they might not enter into temptation, their flesh was weak. When the betrayer arrived, they were unprepared for the spiritual danger and would flee. This was very disappointing to Jesus. These three trusted disciples, after Jesus had asked them to watch and wait, had gone to sleep. Some of the writers think because they were grief stricken of the things Jesus had told them, that they had just given up. One thing in their favor, this was before they received the Holy Ghost and power. The flesh part of Jesus needed their caring. What a time to let Him down. Peter had just bragged that he never would. We do not know whether the hour was a real hour, or just a span of time. At any rate, these three disciples' human weakness was showing.

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak."
Matthew 26:42 "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."
The spirit, as we have said so many times, came from the Holy Spirit and is strong. The flesh was provided by Mary who was human as you and I. As God, He knew the needs of the people and was willing to go through with this terrible death to save the world. Jesus' flesh did not look forward to the pain and humiliation as we said before, Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane (Holy Spirit) to strengthen His flesh. This second prayer of Jesus tells me that it is ok to pray more than once about the same thing. Jesus is our example.

Matthew 26:43 "And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy."
Matthew 26:44 "And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words."

We see here again that Jesus returned to the Father a third time. Jesus surely felt left alone by His earthly friends and companions. They (Peter, James, and John) did not feel the urgency that Jesus did, because, really, they had no idea what was about to take place. They were exhausted after the recent activities, even though it was not their desire to sleep, they did anyhow.

Matthew 26:45 "Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take [your] rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Here we see that Jesus had lined up His will with the Father's will. There was no more need for prayer. It was settled. Jesus knew that even though the Father did not remove the cup, He (the Father) would be with Him to strengthen Him. When we are sure something is the will of the Father, it is easier to bear. Jesus was fully aware of the urgency of the hour. He knew that Judas was on his way with Roman soldiers and people from the town to apprehend Him. He had prayed through, and He was ready.

Matthew 26:46 "Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me."

There certainly was an interval of time between V-45 and V-46, Jesus was awakening them. Judas and the Roman soldiers with him were approaching. Jesus, James, John, and Peter went to the entrance of the garden, where they left the other eight, that they might confront Judas' group there.

QUESTIONS

1. How many of His disciples did Jesus say would be offended that night?
2. When the Shepherd is smitten, what happens to the sheep?
3. How many disciples were still with Jesus?
4. What was Jesus really saying would happen to them?
5. What province would Jesus go into after He had risen?
6. What encouragement was Jesus still giving the disciples?
7. Which disciple quickly said even if the others be offended, he would not?
8. What was Jesus' answer to him?
9. He said though I should _____ _____ _____, yet I will not deny the.
10. Jesus went to what garden with His eleven disciples?
11. What did He tell them to do while He prayed?
12. What is the proper name for an olive press?
13. What three disciples did Jesus take part way with Him?
14. What two things did He ask them to do?
15. Why was He sorrowful?
16, What did Jesus say in His prayer?
17. More than the pain, what did Jesus dread?
18. When He came back from the three disciples, what were they doing?
19. What did Jesus tell them to watch and pray for?
20. By Jesus praying more than once, what does this tell us?
21. When Jesus came back to the disciples the third time, what did He say to them?
22. Who is the Son of man betrayed into the hands of?
23. What help us bear up to problems?

24. Why did Jesus tell them to rise?
25. Who was coming with Judas after Jesus?