



“I Come to the Garden Alone”

Luke 22:39-46

## There is a Stark Contrast Between the Garden of Eden and the Garden of Gethsemane

- In Eden, Adam, the first man, fell to temptation by yielding to the overtures of the Adversary
- In Gethsemane, the Second Man (1Cor. 15:47) overcame temptation by yielding to the will of God
- The Garden of Eden was the most beautiful place on earth ever experienced by man
- The Garden of Gethsemane was the most terrifying place on earth for all of humankind

# There is a Stark Contrast Between the Garden of Eden and the Garden of Gethsemane

- The Garden of Eden was the end of man's sinless relationship with God
- The Garden of Gethsemane was the place where Jesus resolved to go to the cross, the beginning of a chain of events leading to our return to a sinless relationship with God

# How Important is Gethsemane?

- Gary Berdine likes to say: “No Gethsemane, no Calvary.”
- No garden, no cross; no cross, no forgiveness; no forgiveness, no heaven.
- It was in the Garden of Gethsemane that Jesus’ courage and determination to go to the cross was made complete.

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- Great distress

- Matt. 26:36-37 - “Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, Sit here while I go and pray over there. 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.”
- Mark 14:33 - “...And He began to be troubled and deeply distressed.”

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- Great distress

- Luke 22:44 - “And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”
- John 12:27 - “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- Great distress
- He knew what was coming; He told His disciples three times
  - Matt. 16:21 - “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”
  - Matt. 17:22-23 - “Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up. And they were exceedingly sorrowful.”
  - Matt. 20:17-19

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- He knew that greater than the physical pain he would have to endure, He would have to carry the massive burden of all the sins that have ever been committed or ever would be committed
- He also knew that while bearing our sins, He would be separated from God even more than when He left Heaven to live as a man. Throughout all of eternity and the history of this world, He had always been with God.
  - Isa. 53:6 - “All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”
  - Matt. 27:46 - “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- Intense sorrow

- Matt. 26:38 - “Then He said to them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

- Heb. 5:7 - “who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear”

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- Solemn loneliness
  - He wanted His friends to keep vigil with Him - Matt. 26:37-38
  - Yet after each prayer, He found them sleeping
  - Matt. 26:40-41, 43, 45 - “Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. 42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed... 43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

## What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- Psalm 69:20 - “Reproach has broken my heart,  
And I am full of heaviness; I looked for  
someone to take pity, but there was none;  
And for comforters, but I found none.”

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- Agonizing prayer
  - “He... fell on His face” - Matt. 26:39
  - “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me” - Matt. 26:39, 42, 44

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- Three times! Do you understand the implications of this?!
  - Jesus, who knew from eternity before this world began that this had to happen...
  - Jesus, who knew more than anyone except God the Father that this had to take place...
  - Jesus, who knew that God heard Him the first time and already said “No” ...
  - Jesus, who knew before He asked, asked two more times with intensity, with tears, and with fear

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- His prayer was heard and answered
  - Heb. 5:7 - “who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear”
  - God’s answer to Jesus’ prayers: “I am not removing the cup of suffering; you are strong enough to drink it.”

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- Difficult resignation
  - “Not as I will, but as You will” - Matt. 26:39
  - “If this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done” - Matt. 26:42

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- Exhaustion of His last reserves of strength
  - Jesus received an answer to His prayer
  - Luke 22:43 - “Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.”

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- **The Crux Of Eternity!**
- He has a decision to make
  - The Sanhedrin police are coming for Him
  - A cross is being shaped, nails are being forged, spears are being sharpened, a scourge is being braided
  - Three courts are being bribed, pressured, or subverted
  - Roman soldiers are standing by drinking cheap wine and telling racist jokes
  - His best friends see His fear and sorrow and fall asleep
  - God said “No” to the most fervent prayers every expressed on this planet
  - The Devil is leering intently on the scene, ravenously eager for Jesus to fall
  - It’s dark, the hillside is cold, Jesus is alone

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- **The Crux Of Eternity!**
- All of eternity hangs in the balance while this frightened, grieving man wrestles alone with the choice to walk to the cross or flee from the garden
  - God and Jesus planned this from before He ever said, “Let there be light.”
  - The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was the inevitable purpose of every interaction of God with man on every page of the scriptures.

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- **The Crux Of Eternity!**
- Without the cross, everything God planned for humankind cannot take place...
  - Heaven cannot be filled with the children of God
  - The righteous Patriarchs cannot be justified
  - The righteous Jews under Moses cannot be cleansed
  - No one would ever be saved in the Christian dispensation, because there would be NO Christian dispensation; the Law of Moses would still be in effect.
  - All of the prophets, angels, and beings of power wasted their time
- ...If Jesus chooses to flee the garden instead of walk to the cross

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- **The Crux Of Eternity!**
- Between the moment when Jesus finished His third prayer and then arose and left with His friends, all of heaven and earth were holding their breath
- It was all up to Jesus who had the choice to decide either way.
  - It was a choice. He could not be compelled against His will, or else God was not made flesh to dwell among us.

# What Was Jesus Experiencing In The Garden?

- **The Crux Of Eternity!**

- Matt. 26:44-46 - “So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.

- Between 44 and 45 He made His decision, He generated the resolve to go forward. This is a different spirit than the one that moved Him to fall on His face

- All praise to God the Father and to Jesus Christ His Son that our Lord made the right choice!

## What Will We Experience In Our Own Gethsemane?

- Since He made it through the Garden, He proved that we can do the same.
- We can face our own Gethsemane where we are alone facing a critical temptation and must make a hard, painful, fearful, sorrowful choice.
- How can we make the right one?

## What Will We Experience In Our Own Gethsemane?

- Phil. 4:6-7 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
- Heb. 4:14-16 - “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
- Heb. 7:25 - “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”