

JESUS PRAYS IN GETHSEMANE

EASTER LESSON #2

Mark 14:26-52; Luke 22:39-54; John 18:1-11

Lesson Memory Verse: Luke 22:42b “Nevertheless not My will, but Yours be done.”

Lesson Aim: We should pray to God like Jesus did, “Not my will, but Yours be done.”

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever seen anyone fall to the ground and pray? Have you ever seen anyone pray so hard that they sweat? In today’s Bible story we are going to learn about Someone Who prayed so hard that He needed an angel to come and give Him strength or else He would have fainted and possibly died. You will want to hear what happened, but before we tell the whole story, let’s hear a part of what He prayed.

HE (for Authority): Without telling who prayed the prayer in Luke 22:42, read the prayer and explain the principle of praying, “Not my will, but Yours be done.” After your explanation of this prayer and how we all should pray this prayer from our heart, ask your class if they know who prayed this prayer. If they cannot tell you, then tell them it was Jesus’ prayer. Now proceed to tell the story.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Our story today will show us how important it is to pray for God’s will to be done in our lives, just like Jesus prayed for it to be done in His life.

A. Jesus knew the trouble that was coming (Mark 14:26-31)

1. He would die (v. 27).
2. His disciples would be scattered (v. 27).
3. Peter would deny Him (v. 30).

WE: We may not know what troubles are coming, but God does. We may be like Peter and think all is well, but be all wrong. Jesus knew He had to pray and He knew that His disciples had to pray. We, too, need to pray, but do we really believe it enough to pray?

B. Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray (Mark 14:32-41)

1. He told His disciples to pray (v. 32).
2. He told Peter, James and John to pray together (vs. 33-34).
3. He prayed by Himself (vs. 35-36)
 - a. He fell on the ground and prayed.
 - b. He was “amazed” or terrified by the closeness of the cross (v. 33).
 - c. He was “heavy” in heart and “exceeding sorrowful unto death” (vs. 33-34).
 - d. He prayed for the cup (the cross) to be removed from Him, if possible (v. 36).
 - e. He prayed for His Father’s will to be done, even if He had to accept the cross (v. 36).
 - f. An angel strengthened Him (Luke 22:43).
 - g. He prayed in such agony that His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground (Luke 22:44).
 - h. While He was praying so hard, He found His disciples sleeping three times (vs. 38, 40, 41).

WE: We may bow our head, but do we pray? We may go to sleep like the disciples, or let our mind wander off to other things and so we really do not pray. We will pray if we are concerned like Jesus. He had a great concern and so He prayed with great interest. He did not go to sleep. Are you really concerned enough to watch and pray?

C. Jesus was strengthened by His prayers (Mark 14:42-46)

1. He was ready to face His betrayer (v. 42).
2. He let Judas betray Him with a kiss (vs. 43-45; Lk 22:47-48).
3. He boldly faced the soldiers who went backward and fell to the ground (John 18:4-8).
4. He protected His disciples (John 18:8-9).

5. He healed the ear of Malchus (John 18:10; Luke 22:50-51).
6. He told Peter not to fight but that He would drink the cup His Father had given Him – He would willingly go to the cross (John 18:11).
7. He let the soldiers take Him (Mark 14:46).

WE: Are we able to do what Jesus did after we pray? Jesus was willing to let His Father have His way in His life after He prayed. When we pray, do we find strength like Jesus found? Do we surrender to God? We will have plenty of strength if we pray and surrender to God's will. We must believe that His plans for our life are best.

D. The disciples were weak through lack of prayer (Mark 14:47-52)

1. Peter depended on his power and cut off Malchus' ear. Jesus had to tell him to put away his sword because it wasn't His Father's will for him to fight (14:47; John 18:10-11).
2. All the disciples forsook Jesus and fled (14:50).
3. Peter followed Jesus afar off – and got into much trouble (Luke 22:54).

WE: Just like the disciples needed to pray in order to find God's will for their lives and be ready for the trouble that would come to them, so we need to pray for God's will to be done in our life, too. Sometimes we may pray with the idea of changing God's mind, but instead we should pray for God's will to be done. God's will for our life will sometimes mean that we will need to change our mind so that we will agree with God's plans. When we agree with God we will receive His strength and be able to do what is right.

BE (for Action): At the close of the lesson ask your class if they believe Jesus did the right thing by doing His Father's will in going to the cross. Remind them that we would all go to hell if Jesus had not obeyed His Father and done His will. We should thank the Lord Jesus for doing His Father's will. Then ask them if they are willing to do God's will. It will be best for them if they do.

Ask your class to kneel with you, like Jesus kneeled, and pray for God's will to be done in their lives. You might pray the first part of the Lord's prayer which deals with God's will (Matt 6:9-10). You might also pray the memory verse for this lesson (Luke 22:42b).