

Week Six: Entering the Passion of Jesus

Time for Self Reflection

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed



that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

— Luke 22:39-46 (NRSV)

Take some time to look at this artwork and place yourself “in the picture” by considering the perspective of Jesus. Contemplate the following questions:

- ✦ Besides what Jesus says, what might he be feeling and thinking in this scene?
- ✦ What tone of voice do you think he uses?

Now consider the perspective of the disciples Peter, James, and John. Contemplate the following questions:

- ✦ The disciples don’t speak in this passage, but what might they be feeling and thinking?
- ✦ Why do they fall asleep?

Read the passage from Mark again silently. Then read it aloud. Now, contemplate the following questions:

- ✦ How does Jesus speak to God?

- ✦ *How is this a model for our own prayers?*
- ✦ *What did Jesus risk when he brought his disciples to Gethsemane?*
- ✦ *The disciples failed to stay awake. When have you felt that you have failed, and how have you felt God's redemption?*

Prayer of the Week

God of darkened gardens where our worst fears collect,
 We have many things we would not do because they are hard.
 We know the path to the empty tomb travels through the cross.
 We know that those on the outside sometimes see more clearly
 Than the insiders do.
 We pray to stay near you, Lord,
 And claim the courage of the Christ. Amen.

Daily Readings for This Week

Every day through scripture reading and prayer we will discover the broader story of God's Word. Together let's go deeper into God's Word this week.

- Monday ... Luke 22:39-46
- Tuesday ... Luke 22:47-53
- Wednesday ... John 18:1-11
- Thursday ... Mark 14:32-42
- Friday ... Matthew 6:5-6
- Saturday ... Matthew 6:7-15

Scripture for Next Sunday

Jeremiah 31:1-6 & Matthew 28:1-10

Questions, Readings, and Prayer:

Levine, Amy-Jill and Alex Joyner. *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week: Leader Guide*. (Abingdon Press: Nashville, 2018) 55-62.

Artwork:

JESUS MAFA. Christ on Gethsemane, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48391> [retrieved February 24, 2020]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

