

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Prayer of Jesus

Scripture: **Luke 22:39–46**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, June 7, 2020

OVERVIEW

When Jesus went to the Mount of Olives to pray, He said to His disciples, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” The temptation in question was the sin of cowardice that His disciples would soon demonstrate. Had they prayed instead of succumbing to sorrow and weariness and thereby falling asleep, they would never have forsaken Jesus in His hour of danger. In our own nation, we have been gripped by a pandemic, lockdowns, economic fallout, and the recent murder of George Floyd. Our nation appears to be in crisis, as it deals with the ever-present reminder of the scourge of racism, as well as local displays of looting and rioting. As believers, what are we to do amidst such uncertainty? What should our immediate response be? Today’s passage in Luke reminds us that Jesus’ prayer reveals obedience in the midst of adversity. Therefore, **troubling times call for prayer, not panic.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Mark 14:34; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 5:7; Psalm 11:6; Isaiah 51:17; Ezekiel 23:33; Isaiah 53:10; Romans 8:32; Psalm 50:15; James 5:13-16; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 4:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think we often have a tendency to panic and give into fear rather than going immediately to prayer?
2. If prayer in the midst of adversity should be our first response—not our last resort—in which areas in your life are you struggling to submit to the Lord in prayer?
3. J. C. Ryle wrote that “submission is one of the brightest graces of Christian character.” Why is this important and how does it relate to prayer?
4. Pat posed these four questions: 1) Do you know and believe the gospel? 2) Is it truly well with your soul? 3) Do you glory in the gospel? 4) Do you understand that you are pardoned? Discuss how prayer (and God’s Word) can increase our regular dependence on God, even in adversity.
5. In v42, Jesus asked the Father if He was willing to “remove this cup from me.” What did this cup signify? [*suffering and God’s wrath*] What “cup” have you been asking God to remove in your life? If it’s not removed, are you still willing to trust in God’s will for your life?