

“Eyewitness Views”

Eyewitness: Pastor Ken

Part 3

“Jesus’ Great Agony: Bearing Unbelievable Weight”

“And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Luke 22:44

A. Three notes about Jesus...

1. He sought prayer.

“Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, ‘Sit here while I go over there to pray.’” Matthew 26:36

2. His cup: suffering

“And he said to James and John, ‘You don’t know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?’” Matthew 20:22

“My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Matthew 26:39b

3. God gave Him strength.

“Put away your sword,” Jesus told him. “Those who use the sword will die by the sword. Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and He would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?” Matthew 26:52-54

B. Three notes about the disciples...

1. The trials ahead

“He said to Peter, ‘Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.’” Matthew 26:40b-41

2. Their continued weakness

“But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the High Priest’s slave, slashing off his ear.”

Matthew 26:51

“At this point, all the disciples deserted Him and fled.”

Matthew 26:56b

3. Jesus prayed for them.

“Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.” John 17:13-19

C. Three notes about us today...

1. God sometimes answers our prayers with “No”.

“So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied Him up.” John 18:12

2. He gives us something better: strength.

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.” John 17:20-21

3. Our cup: salvation

“I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.” Psalm 116:13