

March 11, 2018

## “Redemption’s Song:

*The Gospels in Perfect Harmony”*

### It’s a Song of Sorrow: The Garden

*“Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”*

*Mark 14:38*

*Matthew 26:30, 36-46; Mark 14:26, 32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1*

#### A. The setting...

1. The setting would be an olive grove called Gethsemane meaning “oil press.” The olive leaves symbolized “peace” and the fruit symbolized “light.”
2. It was just after eating the Passover meal together, that Jesus and the eleven disciples went to the Garden.
3. The disciples had experienced Jesus washing their feet, Judas leaving the group, and Jesus’ words in John 13-16 as well as His prayer in John 17.
4. The disciples sang a hymn together, and then went to the place of prayer.
5. Jesus had the eight wait at a place a bit further from His place of prayer than the other three. He had Peter, James, and John wait about a stone’s throw from the place where He prayed for about three hours.

*“Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.”*

*Mark 14:26*

#### B. Jesus gave His disciples some commands...

*“They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said...”*

*Mark 14:32*

1. He gave the word to the eight disciples, “*Sit here while I go over there to pray.*”
2. He told the three, “*My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.*”
3. But, the three fell asleep as they were overcome by sorrow. (The custom on Passover was to stay awake and recount God’s redemptive acts to the Jews.)
4. Jesus found them asleep and said, “*Couldn’t you watch with Me for 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!*”
5. Jesus found them asleep a second time.

6. When He returned the third time, Jesus said to them, “*Are you still sleeping and resting? But look- the time has come.*”

#### C. Jesus prayed...

1. Jesus knew what He faced and wrestled with His humanity.

*“He went on a little farther and bowed with His face to the ground, praying, ‘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 26:39*

2. Jesus never resisted the will of God.

*“Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, ‘My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, Your will be done.’”*

*Matthew 26:42*

3. Jesus prayed again for God’s will through Him.

*“So He went to pray a third time, saying the same things again.”*

*Matthew 26:44*

#### D. Jesus knew God’s plan must be fulfilled...

1. Jesus knew His mission had to be fulfilled.

*“Now My soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ But this is the very reason I came!”*

*John 12:27*

2. Jesus’ prayers were excruciating.

*“While Jesus was here on earth, He offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the One who could rescue Him from death. And God heard His prayers because of His deep reverence for God.”*

*Hebrews 5:7*

3. Jesus had to become sin for us that we might be saved.

*“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

4. Jesus was obedient to His mission.

*“Even though Jesus was God’s Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered.”*

*Hebrews 5:8*  
*“He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.”*

*Philippians 2:8*

5. Jesus’ suffering prepared Him to be our intercessor.

*“Therefore He is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through Him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.”*

*Hebrews 7:25*

6. Jesus’ suffering gave Him the ability to understand our weakness.

*“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin.”*

*Hebrews 4:15*

7. Jesus endured and is waiting for us to come to Him.

*“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.”*

*Hebrews 12:2*

#### E. What would have happened if the disciples had been praying rather than sleeping?

*How would life be different for the disciples?*

1. Would the disciples have been prepared for what they faced just ahead if they had prayed rather than slept?
2. Would the disciples have made better choices instead of drawing swords, if they had prayed rather than slept?
3. Would the disciples have stayed faithful instead of running to hide, if they had prayed rather than slept?
4. Would the disciples have stayed loyal to the Leader, if they had prayed rather than slept?

*How would life be different for you?*

5. What are you facing today...are you willing to pray that you might be prepared for your future?
6. What does God want to prepare you for that only prayer will be your defense?
7. Are you willing to submit to God’s will, even if it costs you?
8. Are you willing to submit your will to God’s will?

*“Yet not as I will, but as You will.”*

*Matthew 26:39b*

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