



Today's Message

Date: August 21, 2022

Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas

Title: *Human Frailty and Divine Sovereignty*

Text: Luke 22:39–46 (ESV)

³⁹ And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” ⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” ⁴³ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵ And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

Introduction: Jesus and the disciples left the upper room in the early hours of Friday morning. They moved across the Kidron Valley and up the slopes of the Mount of Olives just east of Jerusalem. As they entered the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus instructed his disciples to pray. Then he withdrew to pray by himself. He poured out his soul in great agony while the disciples slept.

This passage seems simple upon first reading. However, further reflection raises numerous questions about what happened in Gethsemane. Why was Jesus in such agony? What was the “cup.” How could the Son of God plead to avoid the plan of the Father?

We will seek answers to these questions as we retell the story.

I. After the Passover meal, Jesus took his disciples to pray. 39-40

- A. He took them to his customary place. 39
- B. He commanded them pray for victory over Satan. 40

II. Jesus then prayed the most difficult prayer of his life. 41-44

- A. He prayed alone. 41
- B. He prayed with submission. 42
- C. He prayed with divine help. 43
- D. He prayed with great agony. 44

III. Jesus returned to the disciples and found them sleeping. 45-46

- A. They failed to watch and pray as Jesus had commanded. 45
- B. Jesus renewed his command. 46

Today's take-home truth: Jesus agonized in prayer because He came as one of us to turn aside the just wrath of God by paying the full "wages" of our sin.

Implications:

1. Spiritual danger is real—we desperately need to pray.
2. God answers prayer—but he does not always give us what we want.
3. The will of God is perfect—nothing is more important.
4. The cost of our salvation is great—God will hold accountable anyone who dishonors His Son.