

The Great Inquisitor
Matthew 26:40
3/4/18

Questions Christ asked last week: Who do you say that I am? Matthew 16:15

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." ³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰ "Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter."
Matthew 26:36-40 NIV

Pray

Jesus had taught them. He had involved them in His ministry. He had given them purpose and elevated their status. Now it was time for them to act on His behalf. He would not ask them to take His place. His simple request: Stay here and keep watch with me. (Matthew 26:38 NIV)

Christ asks those closest to Him to stand watch over Him. What do watchmen do?

We have the best explanation of a watchman in Ezekiel 33:1-6

¹ "The word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, speak to your people and say to them: 'When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, ³ and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, ⁴ then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not heed the warning and the sword comes and takes their life, their blood will be on their own head. ⁵ Since they heard the sound of the trumpet but did not heed the warning, their blood will be on their own head. If they had heeded the warning, they would have saved themselves. ⁶ But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes someone's life, that person's life will be taken because of their sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.'"

Protect – while the people sleep and work

Proclaim – When an enemy approaches

These are the three He had taken with Him to the top of the Mount of Transfiguration. They had shared His glory. Now Christ was asking them to share in His sorrow.

Commitment to another is not always easy. There are two kinds of companions in the journey of life you do not expect to stay with you during the hard times.

Those who ally themselves with you against a common enemy.
Those who join you because you share a common cause.

But there are those who disappoint us because we thought they were with us because God had partnered us together.

This was the kind of loyalty Jonathan and David shared.

This is the kind of friendship I had with my friend Mitch.

This is what I have with Marilyn.

When these bonds are broken, the pain is almost unbearable.

Application

With the cross before Him Jesus desired the support of His closest friends. But they let Him down.

On the cross Jesus cried, "Father forgive them. They do not know what they do."

Luke 23:34

This was not just for the soldiers but for His disciples too.

Wives, husbands: You ask your spouse "Could you not watch with me for this hour?"
You have the power to forgive.

Parents, friends, children...you have the power to forgive. (The father of the prodigal had already forgiven his son before he had returned so reconciliation could occur.)
Let's begin the process this morning so the sorrow isn't made more unbearable by your unwillingness to forgive.