

## THE HOUR HAS COME | Luke 22:39–53 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 8/30/2026

I. Surrendering to the Father (39-46) | II. Standing Through Betrayal (47-48) | III. Submitting in the Battle (49-53)

**INTRO:** There are **certain hours** in life that reveal what is really inside us; A frightening diagnosis. A painful betrayal. A family crisis. An unexpected loss. – **In those moments**, our faith is no longer theoretical. / **PRESSURE EXPOSES** whether we will pray or panic, trust or retaliate, surrender or take control. – In Luke 22, that **HOUR** has arrived for Jesus! The **cross is near... Judas is approaching... the disciples are unprepared**. Darkness appears to be closing in, **Yet Jesus does not panic**, He prays! He does not resist the Father's will... **He surrenders to it!** – Today's message is entitled: **THE HOUR HAS COME**

**I. SURRENDERING TO THE FATHER (39-46)** – **READ:** Leaving the guest room where they just had Passover, **Jesus goes to a familiar Garden** near the **Mount of Olives** *"as He was accustomed."* – **GETHSEMANE** was not an unfamiliar place to Jesus. He *"often met there with His disciples."* (John 18:1-2) tells us that Judas *"knew the place"* – Interestingly enough **Gethsemane** means *"Oil Press."*

**A. Prayer Was His Practice (39-40):** He went to **PRAY** and to be **ARRESTED!** – **Prayer** was already the settled practice of His life! – **The crisis did not create His prayer life; it revealed it!**

**1. Jesus brought His disciples with Him.** – They could not carry His burden, but they were to **accompany Him in prayer!** – Jesus knew they too were about to face severe temptation! – His command was direct: *"Pray that you may not enter into temptation."*

- There is **Profound Significance** in the fact that, during His final hours, **Jesus faced temptation in a garden (v.42)**. **Humanity fell into sin through temptation** in the Garden of Eden (**Gen 3**); **NOW humanity's deliverance from sin begins** as Jesus faces temptation in **another garden**. –
- Jesus is the *"last Adam"* (**1 Cor 15:45**), overcoming what the *"first Adam"* failed to do—**Jesus resisted temptation** and fully submitted to the will of God. (*Encouraging us to do the same!*)

**2. The disciples Needed Prayer more than they realized.** – **Jesus knew Peter's confidence would collapse under pressure**. But Peter believed he was ready to die! As we read, **he was not even prepared to pray!** (*Prayer Strengthens us when we are weak!*) – As disciples, we need to...

**P/A:** Develop a Prayer Life before the crisis arrives! Don't wait until your marriage is breaking, or temptation overwhelms you! **Self-confidence** says, *"I can handle this."* **Spiritual dependence** says, *"Father, I need You."* – Jesus demonstrated this often (**cf. Luke 5:16**)

**B. Praying the Father's Will (41-44): His Prayer was Private (41)** – **Jesus withdrew about a stone's throw from His disciples** – His posture reveals a Reverential Respect... **He knelt down and prayed.**

**1. He Prayed Honestly (42a):** *"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me."* – The **"CUP"** represented the **Suffering and Judgment** He would endure for our sins.

- The judgment belonging to sinners fell upon the sinless Savior.
- The cup is what we deserved, yet Jesus willingly drank it!

**2. He Surrendered Completely (42b):** *"Nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."* Jesus was not resisting the Father's plan—He was submitting to it! – **His prayer reveals the Genuine Humanity of Jesus**—He **AGONIZED** over the suffering before Him, yet remained perfectly obedient to the Father.

- Jesus' prayer reveals the heart of His mission: *"Not My will, but Yours, be done."*

**P/A:** Jesus' **"Nevertheless"** teaches us that Surrender is not weakness—it is willing obedience, which declares: **"Father, I want Your will more than my way."**

- **A.W. Tozer:** **"Outside the will of God, there's nothing I want. Inside the will of God there's nothing I fear."**

**4. He Received Strength (43):** **The Father DID NOT remove the cup; He sent an angel to strengthen Jesus.** – It is always possible that God can change circumstances; but many times, **He chooses to strengthen us to endure it!**

**5. He Prayed More Earnestly (44):** **As His AGONY intensified, so did His prayer!**

- **Like an Olive in an Olive Press,** His sweat became **like great drops of blood** falling to the ground.
- The pressure did not drive Jesus from prayer—**it drove Him deeper into prayer!** (*Deeper Focus!*)

**P/A:** An **Unanswered Request** does not mean an **Unanswered Prayer**. Sometimes God removes the burden. Sometimes He gives you peace while the storm continues. **God may not always get you out of the difficulty... He will give you grace to walk through it!** – God did the same for the apostle Paul: **"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."** (2 Cor 12:9)

**SEGUE:** Now, Luke moves from the Savior's agonizing prayer to the disciples' Exhausted Condition... showing **WHY prayerful preparation is essential; before temptation arrives.**

**E. Prayerless Disciples (45-46):** *Though Luke does not record the repetition,* but **Matthew and Mark** reveal that **Jesus prayed THREE Times**—and **THREE Times He found the disciples sleeping!** – While Jesus sought strength from the Father, **they surrendered to their weariness.**

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### Synoptic Harmony: The Disciples Sleeping in Gethsemane

| Occasion    | Matthew        | Mark          | Luke          | What Happens                                                                    |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Time  | Matt. 26:36–41 | Mark 14:32–38 | Luke 22:39–46 | Jesus prays; the disciples sleep                                                |
| Second Time | Matt. 26:42–43 | Mark 14:39–40 | —             | Jesus prays <u>again</u> ; they sleep <u>again</u> <i>"They had No Answer!"</i> |
| Third Time  | Matt. 26:44–46 | Mark 14:41–42 | —             | Jesus prays <u>a third time</u> ; they are <u>again found sleeping!</u>         |

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**1. The disciples were "Sleeping from Sorrow" (45):** **Their sorrow was real!** They were **emotionally exhausted** and **overwhelmed**, understandably... but let's contrast them with Jesus:

- Their **Tiredness and Sorrow** caused them to disengage when they most needed to pray! < (*This may be the reason the angel was sent to strengthen Jesus*)
- Jesus' **Pressing and Sorrow** drove Him into deeper prayer! (*Who's example are we to follow?*)
- Jesus **Prayed and was Prepared** > The disciples Slept and were Unprepared!
- Jesus would **face the arrest with Composure** > The disciples would react with Confusion & Fear. – **P/A:** CHUCH... **We got to Pray up in order to Stay up** – Prayer is the Battleground (Eph 6:18)

**2. Jesus called them to Rise and Pray (46):** He **woke them up** to encourage them... **"Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."** – Because the hour had come for them too! – **Mark's account includes:** **"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."** (Mark 14:38) – **PRAYER** is a **Spiritual Exercise** that **strengthens us to overcome the weakness of our flesh!**

**P/A:** Be careful that **PAIN** doesn't cause you to spiritually disengage. – When life becomes heavy, Pray Harder—not less. – When you're confused, Pray. – When you're disappointed, Pray. – When your flesh wants another direction, Pray until your heart can say: NEVERTHELESS... YOUR WILL BE DONE!

**SEGUE:** Jesus has Settled the Battle of His will in Prayer. Because He **SURRENDERED TO THE FATHER PRIVATELY** in the garden, He is **PREPARED** for what suddenly arrives **PUBLICALLY!**

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## **II. STANDING THROUGH BETRAYAL (47-48)** – **READ:** **BETRAYAL** = to deliver up *Treacherously*

**A. A Familiar Betrayer (47a):** Judas **knew** where Jesus would be, so *he arrived with a multitude*. – Judas was *“one of the twelve.”* – He had walked with Jesus, heard His teaching, and witnessed His miracles, Judas was physically close but Spiritually Distant!

**B. A False Affection (47b):** Judas *“Drew Near”* to KISS Jesus... but his Kiss was **NOT an Endearing Kiss**. – In fact, Judas transformed a symbol of love into an **Instrument of Betrayal**. – His position among the disciples made his betrayal even more painful! – *Even David wrote of such betrayal (cf. Ps 41:9)*

- It was a **Deceitful Kiss**, carefully disguised: *His outward action* communicated devotion while his inward heart concealed treachery. (*His lips said, “Friend,” while his heart had already rejected the Lord*)

**P/A:** Make sure Your outward worship agrees with your inward life. – **Jesus is not impressed by outward affection that hides inward rebellion**. – We can sing worship songs while refusing to obey... We can call Him *“Lord”* while continuing to protect our own will. – **Jesus does not merely want the affection of our lips... He wants the Surrender of Our Lives.** (cf. Ps 2:12) *Kiss the Son lest He be angry...*

**C. A Faithful Response (48):** *Jesus Confronted Judas personally*, while allowing him to betray Him. *“Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”* – He exposed the contradiction between Judas’ outward gesture and inward intention!

- Notice that Jesus did not retaliate against His betrayer. There was no panic, rage, or uncontrolled response because **His Prayer had “prepared Him” for this painful moment**.

**P/A:** **Prayer PREPARES YOU to respond correctly when people hurt you!** – **Betrayal** can tempt us to become bitter > **Misunderstanding** tempts us to become defensive > **Personal attacks** tempt us to retaliate. – **But before you respond, ASK:**

- Am I speaking from prayer or from pain?
- Am I seeking restoration or revenge? *Vengeance is mine says the Lord!* (cf. Romans 12:18-20)
- Am I trusting the Father or trying to settle the score myself? – **When your heart has been surrendered to God, you do not have to be controlled by what someone else did to you**

**SEGUE:** Jesus was able to **STAND THROUGH BETRAYAL** with Restraint. **But PETER Responds to danger with a Sword**. – We now see what happens when **Human Zeal moves faster than spiritual discernment...**

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## **III. SUBMITTING IN THE BATTLE (49-53)** – **READ:** *The disciples saw danger and reacted with...*

**A. Impulsive Resistance (49-50):** *“Lord, shall we strike with the sword?”* (49) – Their question reveals **Uncertainty and Fear**. **PETER ... ACTED before Jesus answered!**

1. He **Struck** the servant of the high priest (50) – (John 18:10-11) identifies the disciple as **Peter** and the servant as **Malchus**. – **Peter sincerely believed that he was defending Jesus!**
2. He was **Fighting for Jesus without following Jesus!** – He slept when Jesus told him to pray... He swung when Jesus never told him to fight. **His prayerlessness left him controlled by impulsiveness!**

**B. Immediate Restoration (51):** While everyone else was reacting, Jesus remained in control...  
“*Permit even this*” He touched Malchus and healed him, repairing the damage caused by His own disciple

- Peter saw **an enemy**; Jesus saw **someone who needed mercy**!
- Peter, in his **ZEAL**, had forgotten Jesus’ earlier teaching on the sermon mount: **“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you” (Luke 6:27)**
- Peter thought Jesus **needed Defending**, but Jesus showed Peter that **He seeks Representing!**
  - Our calling isn't merely to prove that we're right, **but to show people what Jesus is like.**
  - **Be careful swinging swords Jesus never told you to use.**

**P/A:** Don't wound the very person Jesus wants to reach. **You can win an argument** and lose your witness. **You can prove your point** and damage a person. **You can even claim to be defending Christ** while responding **nothing like Christ**.

- **“Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy.” Wiersbe**

**C. Intentional Restraint (52-53):** *In these final verses* Jesus exposes both the cowardice of His Enemies and the sovereignty of His Father.

1. The chief priests, temple captains, and elders came under **cover of darkness with swords and clubs**, **treating Jesus like a dangerous criminal (52)** — Even though He had taught openly in the Temple **every day**. — **Their nighttime arrest revealed the darkness behind their actions.**
2. Jesus declares, **“This is your hour, and the power of darkness.”** — The Grk word *exousia* means **authority** or **permitted power**. — **Their “hour”** had arrived, but **only because God permitted it**.
  - Judas betrayed Him, soldiers surrounded Him, and Jesus was arrested — **The religious leaders Appeared to be Winning**—yet the Father was still in control!
  - Jesus was **not being Overpowered**, it was the **Father’s redemptive plan** (cf. Acts 2:23)
  - Jesus willingly **SUBMITTED IN THE BATTLE** — **(John 10:18), No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”**
  - Jesus did not lack the power to escape. **He possessed the strength to surrender...** even in His **DARKEST HOUR!**

**P/A:** In the garden, **Judas** chose his will. **Peter** chose his way, and **Jesus** chose the Father’s will. — And that is the choice before us: **When darkness seems to win and God seems silent. But don’t confuse a dark hour with God losing control.** — When your hour comes, **don’t panic, don’t retaliate, and don’t abandon God’s will.**

- **Trust the Father**—even when you cannot understand what He is allowing.
- **The darkest hour in human history became the doorway to our redemption.**

**Remember: When faced with a Dark Hour, the SAFEST PLACE FOR YOU is in the CENTER OF THE FATHER'S WILL. > The Father is working even when you cannot see Him!**