

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36-46

INTRODUCTION: "...*but the flesh is weak...*" (V. 41).

Do you grasp the truth of the great battle we have with our flesh?

In this passage, Christ informs His closest followers about the "weakness of their flesh."

Paul was certainly aware of this great battle...

Romans 7:21 (KJV)

²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

I want to preach on this **subject** today:

"But The Flesh"

In our passage, Christ faced the problem of no human support or encouragement in His earnest appeal to God.

That is not unusual for those dedicated to the Lord.

That really tests our dedication, but it will strengthen our faith.

Before I deal with my main subject, allow me to give you some highlights from this passage:

1. ***The culprits in the problem.***

"*He cometh unto his disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter*" ([Matthew 26:40](#)).

The three best disciples failed miserably in the Garden to help and support Christ in this very critical time.

2. ***The character of the problem.***

"*Findeth them asleep*" ([Matthew 26:40](#)).

Fatigue overcame their faithfulness. The disciples went to sleep on Jesus.

3. ***The cause of the problem.***

"*Their eyes were heavy*" ([Matthew 26:43](#)).

The disciples were tired.

They were physically exhausted from the activities of the day, and it was late at night.

Sleep is not necessarily wrong; but it was here, even though they were tired; for they were commanded not to sleep in the command to "*Watch*" ([Matthew 26:38,41](#)).

4. ***The condemnation of the problem.***

Christ rebuked the disciples for their problem of sleeping.

Note three things about these condemnatory comments by Christ of the sleeping problem.

First, the **shaming** in the condemnation. "*What, could ye not watch with me one hour?*" ([Matthew 26:40](#)).

The shame is in the fact that the disciples could not even stay awake for one hour.

Second, the **schooling** in the condemnation. "*Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak*" ([Matthew 26:41](#)).

Third, the **sarcasm** in the condemnation. "*Sleep on now, and take your rest*" ([Matthew 26:45](#)).

This statement was dripping with sarcasm.

Now let me deal with "the flesh" in more detail:

I want to notice 3 things about the "flesh":

I. **It's Weak!** (v. 41)

That is why Jesus told them to pray!

We must "watch" out and "pray" for God's power to conquer our "flesh!"

James 4:1 (KJV)

¹From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come*

they not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

II. **It's Wicked!**

Romans 7:18 (KJV)

¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

You need to "wake up" to the fact that your "flesh" (and mine) is WICKED!!!

It tries daily to demand its way!

We can only subdue it as Christ informed His disciples to do: "Pray!!"

III. **It's Worldly!**

1 John 2:15-17 (KJV)

¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Conclusion:

Now, in conclusion, allow me to give you the “remedy” for overcoming the “flesh!”

1. **Crucify the Flesh!**

Galatians 2:20 (KJV)

²⁰I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:24 (KJV)

²⁴And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

2. **Conform to the Word!**

James 1:22 (KJV)

²²But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

3. **Control the Body (self)!**

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

4. **Cling to the Lord!**

James 4:8 (KJV)

⁸Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

Closing: Let us stand and sing this beloved old song...

Bruce Beach—1995—pm @ MHBC, Kensington, Ga.

Bruce Beach—1996—am @ TBC, Dalton, Ga.

Bruce Beach—2/21/24—Wed. @ WHBC, Dalton, Ga.