

Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Mark 14:32-42 | The Garden of Gethsemane
October 10, 2021

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Mark 14:32-42
- Bibles in back—our gift to you.

REVIEW:

Last Sunday, we learned how the Twelve Disciples all have *a bad case of the normals*.

What's that mean?

These men are proud at times—just like you and me.

They let their egos make decisions—they let fear control their emotions—just like you and me.

We learned that many of them don't think before they open their mouth.

Have you ever wondered whether Peter's mouth was shaped like his foot?

These men have tempers and agendas and flaws, just like you and me—in other words, they have *a bad case of the normals*.

Just like you and me!

Are we learning through Mark's Gospel that the Twelve Disciples represent us as Jesus' disciples today?

Have you noticed that we all make the same mistakes that they did?

It's easy for us to read these narratives and think to ourselves, "I wouldn't have done that!"

And then, just days or even hours later, the Lord allows us to prove it in our own life.

Also
Last week we looked at how both OT scripture and Jesus predicted the Disciple's betrayal.

Jesus quoted the OT prophet Zechariah and gave the Disciples a detailed outline of how they would betray Him.

Not one of the Disciples listened to Jesus—not one.

They all said that betrayal would never happen, with Peter as their spokesperson.

They all pounded their chest and said they would rather die than betray Jesus.

+ **KEYPOINTS:**

1. The Disciples didn't know how weak they truly were—nor do we. *until tested*
2. Your behavior reveals what you truly believe about God—regardless of what you say.

In other words Actions speak louder than words
~~And we went on to discuss those key points in detail.~~

Finally, we also learned the difference between temporary fear and living in a chronic state of fear.

That's all a review from last Sunday. If you missed that message, it's on our website at River Bible dot ORG.

INTRODUCTION:

Today, we come to a section of Scripture that is— It's impossible for me to introduce what the Lord will teach us today.

SAY w/ words
Describe

It is utterly fascinating and completely terrifying at the same time.

So let me try - 4 things

First, we will learn about Jesus' humanity—and just how human Jesus truly is.

Secondly, we will see what it takes to be in the center of God's will—and how painful it is to remain there.

Thirdly, we're going to look at temptation—How Jesus persevered and how the Disciples failed.

Fourthly, going to see two examples of prayer.

We're going to witness the lack of prayer in the Disciple's lives and the wholehearted prayer life of Jesus.

Today's narrative takes place during the middle of the night, as Thursday night becomes early Friday morning.

The time frame is most likely between 12am-2am.

It's been a very long week for everyone—they are exhausted.

Why is that important? Let's find out!

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 14:32-42 CSB

Mark 14:32— Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he told his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

- + **Mark 14:33**— He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.
- + **Mark 14:34**— He said to them, "I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake."
- + **Mark 14:35**— He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.
- + **Mark 14:36**— And he said, "Abba, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."
- + **Mark 14:37**— Then he came and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake one hour?"
- + **Mark 14:38**— Stay awake and pray so that you won't enter into temptation., The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- + **Mark 14:39**— Once again he went away and prayed, saying the same thing.
- + **Mark 14:40**— And again he came and found them sleeping, because they could not keep their eyes open. They did not know what to say to him.
- + **Mark 14:41**— Then he came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The time has come. See, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
- + **Mark 14:42**— Get up; let's go. See, my betrayer is near."

PRAY:

Teach me, Lord, the meaning of your statutes,
and I will always keep them. (Psalm 119:33)

EXEGESIS:

Mark 14:32— Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he told his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

The name "Gethsemane" means "press of oils" or "olive press."

This was a real ^{garden in a physical location} place that grew olives.

This garden was most likely a private orchard that was probably owned by a wealthy follower of Jesus.

In all probability, the garden was surrounded by a fence or wall and had a gated entrance.

This was the typical setup for gardens near the city of Jerusalem.

Inside the city walls, there was no room for gardens, so people planted things for personal use and for sale a few miles away along the rolling hills of the valleys.

All that to say this— Gethsemane was just a few miles from the city of Jerusalem, so it was probably a nice secluded area for Jesus to be alone with His Disciples.

Luke's Gospel says that...

cf. Luke 22:39— ^{Jesus} He went out and made his way as usual to the Mount of Olives,

So Gethsemane was a favorite spot by Jesus and the Disciples.

Evidently, they spent a lot of time here.

Mark 14:33— He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

So Jesus leaves eight of the disciples at the gate of the garden. *Jesus already left*

Why? *2 thoughts* He doesn't want to be interrupted—possibly even protection.

Jesus now takes his leadership team with Him.

Peter, and the “Sons of Thunder,”—James and John.

These are the same three men who witnessed Jesus' glory and deity in the Transfiguration (Mark 9:2).

Now they will witness his agony as a human.

Mark 14:33— ...and Jesus began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

As Jesus is walking with Peter, James, and John, something begins to happen that Jesus has never experienced before.

Deeply Distressed—the picture here is that Jesus becomes astonished at His own emotions.

He is surprised by the level of terror that He undergoes.

Troubled—Jesus is full of heaviness and is suffering a pressure that He has never known before.

There's also a picture here that *means* Jesus is homesick.

Jesus longs to go back home where He belongs. *to be w/ The Father in Heaven.*

Pause...How is all of this possible?

That Jesus as the Son of God—meaning that He is divine—is astonished or surprised by His emotions?

Because Jesus is also the Son of Man—meaning that He is truly a human being as well.

And here's the majesty in it all—

God, in the form of a man, experienced real emotions— just like you and me.

+ How do we know this?
cf. Hebrews 4:15—For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

In fact, we're getting ready to see that Jesus experienced these emotions at a far greater level than many of us ever will. ^{is temptations}

Jesus is preparing to undergo a strain, pressure, and tension of cosmic proportions.

Jesus is going to pre-live the cross before the cross.

I mentioned that Jesus is astonished at His emotions.

What exactly is Jesus astonished about?

Was it because Israel rejected Him as their Messiah and Savior?

How about Judas' betrayal?

Is it the fact that in just a few minutes, the rest of His Disciples would desert Him, leaving Him isolated, forsaken, and alone?

Is it the reality of how the religious leaders and Roman soldiers will treat him?

Or, maybe, it's the thought of enduring the most painful death a human being can ever experience?

All of those things contributed—but this distress, trouble, agony, and ~~astonishment~~ ^{to this astonishment} goes beyond all those worldly things.

Why?

Because Jesus would soon become the object of sin.

Jesus would bear, endure, and undergo God the Father's divine wrath on human sin.

Please turn your Bibles... *slow down - 3 notes*

cf. 2 Corinthians 5:21— He (God the Father) made the one who (Jesus) did not know sin to be sin (offering) for us, so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God. *Jesus*

And because Jesus is the sin offering

For the first time in all of eternity, Jesus would experience alienation, isolation, and detachment from His Father.

Why?

cf. Habakkuk 1:13— *Look* Your eyes are too pure to look on evil...

And because of the Father's fury that will soon be unleashed on Jesus, Jesus tells Peter, James, and John.

Mark 14:34— He said to them, "I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake."

In other words, Jesus tells them, "It feels as if I'm going to die."

Now, let those words sink in.

"I am deeply grieved to the point of death."

Is Jesus hyperbolic?

Is this a time where Jesus is going to launch into a parable?

No, Jesus' sorrow is so powerful His human frame is in danger of collapsing.

The wave of terror that flooded Jesus' mind is so intense it nearly kills Him.

Think about that—God Himself in human form nearly dies at the overwhelming reality that He—as an innocent man—is moments away from paying the price of your sin.

Dear friends, this reveals the cost of sin.

Sin—This thing that we take so lightly every single day.

The whole scene reveals a devastating agony that is beyond human comprehension.

Nothing in all of Scripture compares to Jesus' agony in Gethsemane.

The anguish that Abraham felt preparing to sacrifice his son—that event only points to what Jesus is living at this moment. (Genesis 22:5).

The grief David endured at the death of his son Absalom doesn't close. (2 Sam 18:33).

Nor do the laments in the books of Psalms and Lamentations.

Even when Satan tested Jesus for forty days doesn't compare to Gethsemane.

Jesus continues...

Mark 14:34— *Remain here and stay awake.*"

Be vigilant, be watchful, be on the lookout!

Notice here that Jesus didn't ask them to pray for Him at this moment—that should have been a given.

Because keeping watch is a duty.

It's a commitment and responsibility of our faith. See Exodus 12:42.

What were they watching out for?

Just as the Jews watched how God the Father delivered them from the Egyptians—

Peter, James, and John were to watch God deliver humanity from physical death and eternal punishment in a very real place called hell.

These three men saw Jesus in His glory with the Transfiguration.

Now they will see Him suffer in humiliation.

Peter, James, and John were to now share in Jesus' agony.

Mark 14:35— *He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.*

Notice what Jesus does with this kind of terror and despair that He is currently experiencing.

Agony drives Jesus to prayer.

KEYPOINT from last week:

Your behavior reveals what you truly believe about God.

When we find ourselves amid a tragic situation, we have two options.

1. We can blame God and run away from Him. We can choose to get mad and start interrogating God with all our “why” questions.
2. We can choose to run into the arms of God and cling to Him by believing in His promises.

We see what Jesus chose in verse 35...

Mark 14:35—fell to the ground...

Notice Jesus’ body language.

Jesus’ physical prostration reveals the intensity of His agony.

His body collapses in total exhaustion and submission.

From the other Gospels, we piece together that he went first to his knees (Luke 22:41) and he’s praying, and praying and praying....and then on his face (Matthew 26:39).

The One who created the dirt, now has His face in the dirt.

This is an excellent position for sinners to pray in—except Jesus is anything but a sinner.

Jesus is the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!

Jews normally prayed with faces uplifted and hands raised to heaven.

Not Jesus, and not this time.

What did Jesus pray?

+ **Mark 14:35**—and prayed that if it were possible...

Jesus is praying for The Father to change His divine plan.

Jesus is not questioning God's power...but He is petitioning the plan.

Jesus is not having second thoughts or quitting.

He is simply asking the Father if there is another way to save sinners—apart from the cross.

Secondly, as Jesus makes His petitions—

The picture is that Jesus is not praying silently, but lamenting loudly.

Jesus is praying so loud that Peter, James, and John can hear Him.

How do we know this?

+ **cf. Hebrews 5:7**—*During his earthly life, he offered prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death...*

+ **KEYPOINT 1:**

Jesus expressed his true feelings to those closest to him.

Jesus doesn't bottle up His feelings.

Jesus is not being polite and acting religious.

Everything is NOT fine.

He tells God the Father and Peter, James and John, what's on his heart.

Question: Why does Jesus, who has known The Father's plan all along... now cringe before it?

Because Jesus is experiencing and this is insane!

God Himself is coming to terms for the very first time—the reality of what it means to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29) *truly*

It's one thing to stand before a holy, holy, holy God and answer for your own sins.

Can you imagine what it would be like to stand before God and answer for every sin and every evil of every human being who ever walked the planet?

Paying for your sin is why Jesus cringes.

Back to...

Mark 14:35—... *the hour might pass from him.*

The hour refers to Jesus' ~~death~~ *suffering.*

no one chooses to suffer - some w/ Jesus.

By reading through the Gospels, we've noticed that Jesus has said several times that "my hour" or "my time" has not yet come.

Well, the hour has come.

Jesus has been preparing His entire life for this hour—this moment—right now.

But the gross reality of your ~~mankind~~'s sin is even greater than He realized in His humanity.

The sorrow and grief that Jesus experienced in the garden defy our comprehension.

Why? Because it was also a supernatural struggle.



Mark 14:36— *And he said, “Abba, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will.”*

I can promise you that Jesus didn't say that prayer as fast as I read it.

First, Jesus says, **“Abba, Father.”**

Jesus uses the Aramaic and Greek terms together.

Why would He do that?

Is this something that He planned on doing?

No, it's as if the stress of this moment, Jesus loses his train of thought, and since he knows multiple languages, he starts to stumble around in His prayers.

He's getting His words mixed up.

Remember that Jesus is excessively affected by emotion.

He's on the verge of death

“Abba....Father!”

Abba was a standard family term that Jews used—but only in the immediate family.

Jews didn't use this term to refer to God because they considered it disrespectful.

Most of us have heard this term, “Abba” translated as “Daddy.”

But please know that there is nothing “childish” in this term.

What "Abba" does represent is a respectful and healthy intimacy from son to father.

Mark 14:36— All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."

Is Jesus praying something contrary to the Father's will?

Is Jesus, at this moment, caving in to the pressure?

Is He on the verge of disobedience?

No, Jesus is truly God and truly man.

As a man, he had a human will.

Which means that he temporarily had limited divine knowledge.

The apostle Paul writes.

cf. Philippians 2:6— ^{Jesus} who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited.

cf. Philippians 2:7— Instead, he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man,

cf. Philippians 2:8— he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.

temporarily (of Divine Sovereign Knowledge)

What we see in this text is the human interaction between ^{A perfect} the human *heart* of the Son and the ^{Divine} will of the Father.

~~And the same thing happens while you pray as well.~~

Mark 14:36— All things are possible for you.

Something is happening that Mark, our Gospel writer, doesn't overtly mention.

The reason Jesus is overcome with emotions is that Satan is tempting Jesus.

There is a full-blown supernatural assault from the gates of hell on Jesus, as the Son of Man at this moment.

Just as we saw three waves of temptation between Satan and Jesus in the wilderness, we will see three more waves of temptation in Gethsemane.

Please know that it's not Satan's wish that Jesus dies via crucifixion.

That is not Satan's plan at all.

Remember what Jesus said to Peter when Jesus first revealed the plan of the cross?

"Get behind me, Satan." (Mark 8:33)

Satan wants Jesus dead, but not by the cross.

Satan's plan is to derail the cross.

The cross, however, is God the Father's plan.

~~So make no doubt about it, Jesus is experiencing a full-on Satanic warfare on His humanity.~~

~~Jesus is shown to be anything but above temptation in Gethsemane.~~

If Satan succeeds at this point, Jesus fails, and no one goes to Heaven.

No one.

Continuing
Mark 14:36— Take this cup away from me.

In the Old Testament, the **cup** was often used as a metaphor for the wrath of God.

If Jesus were to look into a physical cup, He would ~~have seen~~ ^{see} every sin, every evil ^{Intention} that every human committed in gross detail. ^{every wicked desire that you've had or will have.}

So, in other words, the analogy is that this cup is full of sin.

Secondly, because this is a cup full of sin, Jesus also sees God's wrath that accompanies that sin.

Make no doubt about it; when you choose to sin, you choose to suffer.

^{God doesn't wink at sin - and the sinner will be judged. → sin in hell sinner}

And then there's the realization that He, the holy, sinless, and innocent Son of Man, must now identify himself with sinners.

By doing so, Jesus becomes the object upon which God the Father unleashes His holy wrath.

So Jesus says, "Take it away! I don't want to do this."

Mark 14:36— Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."

So Jesus says, "Take it away! I don't want to do this....BUT, I will."

So even though Jesus asked God the Father to take away the cross, Jesus also knew that ~~He~~ ^{the} never acts contrary to His character, purpose, or Word.

the Father

Nevertheless—it indicates the distinction between Jesus' request to the Father and His submission to the Father.

But what you will— reveals the heart of Jesus' prayer.

"I want you want." — no matter the cost to himself.

KEYPOINT 2:

Experiencing God includes experiencing His suffering.

That's why Paul writes this...

cf. Colossians 1:24— Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body, that is, the church.

Anything worth having is worth suffering for. *Especially when it comes to your relationship w/ Jesus.*

Mark 14:37— Then he came and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake one hour?"

So as Jesus is going through the most dire circumstances anyone will ever experience, Jesus stops praying to check on His Disciples.

Think about that—at this hour, at this moment—Jesus is concerned about other people.

Jesus calls Peter by his old name because he's acting like his old self.

Peter has not lived up to his name; he is not a "Rock at this moment."

Peter was probably singled out ~~at this moment~~ because just a few hours earlier, his mouth was writing checks that he cannot cash.

Mark 14:37— "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake one hour?"

This is a rhetorical question. ^{Petr} He has no excuse.

~~These guys did the same thing at Jesus' Transfiguration. (Luke 9:32)~~

Mark 14:38— Stay awake and pray so that you won't enter into temptation., *The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.*"

In other words, quit trying to live your life on your own.

You can't do anything by yourself.

So, Jesus gives them two commands:

First, stay awake!

Be vigilant, be on the lookout! Don't be naive. *About spiritual warfare. This stuff is real.*

Secondly, pray! Why prayer?

So that you won't be tempted.

To "enter into temptation" —means to give into it.

To surrender and relinquish or to give up in the temptation.

KEYPOINT 3:

In times of great stress, you are most vulnerable to temptation.

How do you overcome temptation?

1. Keep watch, stay awake and be aware. Live in reality,
2. Pray! You bring that reality before a holy God and lay it at the foot of the cross.

The purpose of the prayer is so that you can be victorious over temptation.

Remember the Lord's prayer?

+ *cf. Matthew 6:13 ESV*—And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Prayer allows us to identify the temptation, and gives us God's strength to overcome temptation.

+ *Mark 14:38*—The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Wow, It's like Jesus is giving them the answer to His own question in verse 37.—
"Why are you sleeping?"

Spirit is not a reference to the Holy Spirit, but their human spirits.

+ *Mark 14:39*— Once again he went away and prayed, saying the same thing.

We learn a vital characteristic of prayer in verse 39—persistence.

Some people believe they only need to ask once, because they don't want to bother or badger God.

But we can't miss the fact that Jesus prayed for the same thing over and over and **over** again in this passage.

This is not unique—The apostle Paul followed Jesus' lead.

Paul told the Corinthians that he had prayed three times for God to remove his "thorn in the flesh."

It never was removed—God said "no" to Paul. → PRAYER

+ cf. ² **1 Corinthians 12:9**— But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness."

That leads to something significant.

Persisting in prayer does not change God's mind, but persistent prayer eventually changes ours.

We even see this here in Jesus' prayer.

In his first prayer, Jesus asked that *the hour might pass from Him*.

Jesus makes it clear. He doesn't want to bear the cross.

Matthew's Gospel gives us more insight into Jesus' second prayer...

+ cf. **Matthew 26:42**— Again, a second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

So what happened ~~to~~ between Jesus' first & second prayer? →
Jesus realizes that God said "no" to His first prayer.

Jesus must endure the cross—something He doesn't want to do.

Jesus accepts the fact that God the Father said "no."

So notice what Jesus says next; if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

Jesus doesn't get mad at the Father; He chooses to trust Him.

Jesus is now asking for the strength to complete the Father's will and His Messianic mission.

+ **Mark 14:40**— And again he came and found them sleeping, because they could not keep their eyes open. They did not know what to say to him.

Jesus gets up and checks on the Disciples again in verse 40.

They are not praying. They chose to sleep.

Wow, even Peter is speechless and embarrassed!

And since no one is there to comfort Jesus and to pray for Jesus, what happens next is supernatural.

We learn about it by turning to the Gospel of Luke...

+ **cf. Luke 22:43**— Then an angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. *If this angel didn't show up, Jesus would have died.*

+ **cf. Luke 22:44**— Being in anguish, he prayed more fervently, and his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.

+ **cf. Luke 22:45**— When he got up from prayer and came to the disciples, he found them sleeping, exhausted from their grief.

Why are the disciples exhausted?

From the big Passover meal?

Because it's so late?

Is it because they're now hiking in the middle of the night?

Combination of everything?

No, Scripture tells us that it's because of grief.

Grief exhausts us, doesn't it?

That's why grief makes us depressed, and depression makes us want to check out from the reality of life and sleep the pain away—and that's what's going on here.

The Disciples are so grieved that the past three years with Jesus seem to be falling apart. *→ they can't believe all this is happening.*

~~They're in the middle of a trial, and that's why you don't want to make major decisions in the middle of trials.~~

Mark 14:41— Then he came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The time has come. See, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

This English translation is simply a guess at the meaning of the original **Greek**.

Jesus is exasperated. — "What's the use?"

Are you guys going to sleep all night on me?

"The time has come"—this long-expected hour of crisis has arrived.

It is "go time".

BUT - here's the good news.
Any temptation to avoid the cross is now gone.

Jesus passed the test again.

The hours of sleep for the disciples and the hours of prayer for Jesus both have ended.

It is now time to embrace this hour that will complete God's plan for the eternal salvation for sinners.

Mark 14:42— Get up; let's go. See, my betrayer is near."

Notice what Jesus is not saying.

He's not saying, "Get up, let's get out of here!" — Run for your life!
— Every man for himself!

No, he's saying, "Get up, it's time lead."

See—Jesus can physically see this mob of people coming to arrest Him.

And He points them out to the Disciples. *is walks toward the mob.*

PREACH:

There is so much to take away from today's Scripture passage.

because we're scratching the surface today.

We learned about Jesus' humanity—and just how human Jesus truly is.

is compassion

We saw the testing, the pain, the overwhelming emotion to remain in the center of God's will.

We saw two vivid examples of prayer.

1. What happens when you don't pray.
2. What happens when God says "no" to your prayers.

And prayer is where I want to close today.

If we are a child of God, we will experience our own personal Gethsemane.

you

you

your

Today's text teaches us a very VERY important lesson.

KEYPOINT 4:

God says "no" to prayers.

When ^{God says "no"} this happens, we think something is wrong, or we lack faith.

Dear friends, did Jesus lack faith [?] as He poured His heart out to the Father, begging Him for another way to save mankind?

There is a profound irony of Gethsemane that you must take away today...

KEYPOINT 5:

Constant, repetitious prayer doesn't deliver us from Gethsemane, but through Gethsemane.

When you feel the most rejected by God,

And it seems like He is so far away,

And He doesn't care about you or your situation,

Dear friends, that is when you are the closest to Him.

It's in your Gethsemane, that you won't even know that He has you in the palm of His scarred hand.

KEYPOINT 6:

Regardless of how you feel, God proved His love for you on the cross.

You may not understand God in moments like these, but you can still trust Him.

But you will never trust God unless you pray.

Because pls 0

There is a severe reprimand and rebuke that comes from today's lesson as well.

If you are not living a life of dependent prayer—

If you don't choose a regular time of daily prayer— dear friend, you are sinning.

How is refusing to pray a sin?

Well, you can't love someone ^{when} ~~that~~ you refuse to spend time with. ^{then}

^{A person who refuses to pray}
Secondly, ~~you're~~ breaking the first two of the Ten Commandments.

In other words, you're not in the game.

And this is not a game.

This is a very real—spiritual battlefield.

And as I mentioned last week, this battlefield will only become more bloody as time goes on.

^{because life as we know it is about to become much more difficult.}

^{at top of that}

Some of you are going through things right now that you would have never picked for yourself.

But, just as the Father chose Gethsemane for Jesus, God has also chosen this Gethsemane for you.

There is no way around it. You must go through it.

It doesn't matter what the "it" is.

It doesn't matter if it's health, kids, grandkids, finances, or even death. ^{of a spouse or loved one}

Please remember what your Gethsemane is—

Gethsemane IS

It's the means—it's the mode—for which God is driving you to your knees to pray.

Sometimes your Gethsemane takes days, weeks, years, and yes, even decades.

Your Gethsemane is an invitation to experience God in a way that is not possible through any other way avenue.

Dear friends, please don't waste your Gethsemane.

Don't make the mistake the Disciples made and go this alone.

Don't choose to sleep through it.

Or numb the pain with pornography, drugs, alcohol, work, or religion.

So, I want to invite you to pray with us. *to something new,*

As the corporate body of River Bible Church, we have been praying every week for nearly the past two years.

+

I'm formally *Inviting* asking you to join us here on Wednesdays from 12pm-1pm with Pastor Brian and myself. *to pray w/ us.*

If you can't make it physically here, then join us via ZOOM.

If you work, bring your lunch - eat lunch while on Zoom.

Either way, we *must* need to pray as a Church.

I mentioned last Sunday that it is very clear that the world is under God's judgement. *right now*

And we're going to start feeling the repercussions soon—

Yes, all of this on top of everything else going on in your life.

And when those repercussions start happening here in the Verde Valley, people are going to start freaking out more than they already are.

And when these folks have nowhere else to turn, and they see those three crosses on top of the hill, and they make their way in that front door...

We have to be ready as well.

Please join us for a sweet time of corporate prayer, every Wednesday from 12pm-1pm.

PRAAYER:

Praying out of Proverbs 3:5-12. Listen to these words as you process your own Gethsemane.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own understanding;
in all your ways know him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

*Don't be wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord and turn away from evil.*

*This will be healing for your body,
and strengthening for your bones.*

*Do not despise the Lord's instruction, my son,
and do not loathe his discipline;*

*for the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights.*

Father - Thank you for Jesus' Gethsemane
? thank you for loving us enough
to exp. our down

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