

“Gethsemane is NOT Calvary!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **Illustration** - Standing at the **South Pole** is like being in the eye of a hurricane...it's **deceptively calm!** The **quietness** seems inconsistent with the fact that **mighty winds originate there**. How is this possible?¹

As **warm air** from the equator flows in over the polar region, it descends, becomes **cold and dense**, and **sinks** to the frigid surface. Since the ice-covered plateau tapers off toward the oceans, and no mountains of other obstacles stand in the way, **gravity pulls the heavy, cold air down the smooth slopes**. The wind picks up tremendous speed as it moves northward toward the equator. Gradually it is heated by the sun and begins to rise, creating a circular pattern to drive the earth's weather machine that is so vital to our existence.

- 1.1.1. For Christians, quiet times of **prayer and worship** also give rise to **great power!** They might seem non-productive because nothing appears to be happening. Our urge is almost compulsive: **move, do, work, worry, struggle**. Yet at the heart of accomplishing things for God must be **that regular experience of calm followed by an unobstructed flow of energy**.
- 1.2. 1st we'll finish up one last short teaching at the dinner table.

2. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL NOT LACK! (35-38)

- 2.1. Last bit of instructions in the upper room.
- 2.2. (35) On their earlier mission the disciples went **w/o provisions** & depended entirely on the hospitality of their hearers.²
- 2.2.1. His promise to them was that they would not lack - **Psalm 23:1**.
- 2.2.2. In the **new situation**, brought about by Jesus' death, they must be equipped & be prepared to face **hostility & persecution**.
- 2.3. (36) Bring your **wallet, backpack, & Roman short sword** –
- 2.3.1. Standard equipment out on the road where highwaymen pose a threat to life itself.
- 2.3.1.1. Carry a sword **not for offense** but for **defense**.
- 2.3.2. Not a command to resist, but a picturesque warning of **dangerous times ahead**.³

¹ Bible Illustrator.

² Shepherd's Notes; pg. 82.

³ Search the Scriptures; Stibbs; pg.33.

- 2.4. (38) **It is enough** – *Enough already!* You took Me literally & missed the point.
- 2.4.1. He **wasn't** inventorying the disciple's arsenal. Had that been the case 2 swords **wouldn't** have been enough & He would've said "*buy more.*"
- 2.4.2. So Jesus concludes the conversation after they failed to grasp His meaning in the sword metaphor.

3. **THE LORD IS MY FATHER, THY WILL BE DONE! (39-46)**

- 3.1. Now, out of the upper room to the Mount of Olives.
- 3.2. This story is almost **too sacred** to explore by methods of exegesis or exposition.
- 3.2.1. There are things in this that have baffled theologians for centuries.
- 3.2.2. There are **dim & dark mysteries** hanging around this story in a olive-yard called **Gethsemane**(Olive press).
- 3.3. (39) Judas knew where he would find him.
- 3.4. (40) This account **starts & ends** with a warning to "**pray that you enter not into temptation**" (40, 46).
- 3.4.1. Jesus explaining to them when you are in prayer, you will be safe from temptation.
- 3.4.2. **Pray** – not limited to a petition, but to worship & communion with Him.
- 3.4.3. We need to maintain the life of fellowship with God, however dark the day, however rough the way, for the soul at worship, is the soul who is ever guarded against temptation. (G. Campbell Morgan)
- 3.5. (41) **Key** - See Him alone with God!...**withdrawn from them**.
- 3.5.1. **All the world** left behind! **All His friends** were *over there*. And he passed into the place of communion with God.
- 3.5.2. For there is a point where deepest **human** sympathy naturally **fails!**
- 3.5.2.1. God has designed it to fail, He wants you to come & fall on Him.
- 3.5.2.2. **Q: Have you experienced that?**
- 3.5.3. It was an hour of **agony**, but **agony in communion!**
- 3.5.4. Not for a single moment did He lose the **sense** of God, or of the **nearness** of God, or of the **care** of God in Gethsemane.
- 3.5.4.1. **Gethsemane is not Calvary!!!**
- 3.5.5. Quiet times of **prayer and worship give rise to great power!**
- 3.6. (42) There was a **back door**...else would it have been a real temptation?
- 3.6.1. **Mt.26:53 Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than 12 legions of angels?**
- 3.6.1.1. An Angelic get away car waiting at the back of the Garden.

- 3.7. **Take this cup** – here is one thick shaft of light piercing the darkness, revealing to us **the terrors of the cross**, maybe even clearer than standing at Calvary. ☹️
- 3.7.1. Yet even still, never for a moment was there any departure from the will of God.
- 3.8. If the **dread of the cross** isn't felt...then **no Sacrifice**;
If **shrink away** from the cross...**no Savior**.
- 3.9. **Not My will but Yours be done** - **George Muller** speaking on prayer said, “I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that **it has no will of its own** in regard to a given matter. 90% of the trouble with people is just here.
- 3.9.1. 90% of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, **whatever it may be**. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.”
- 3.10. Many talk about “*the prayer of faith*” but it is usually talked about as if it was a type of **positive confession**.
- 3.10.1. Here Jesus' prayer of faith is, “I will believe by faith, since God's will is always best!” – That's a prayer of faith/believing!
- 3.10.2. **It's safely putting His will above our own wishes!**
- 3.10.3. His answer was **not removal** of the load, but **strength** to bear it!
- 3.10.3.1. **Read Heb.5:7,8.**
- 3.11. **Cup** – a metaphor for Jesus' suffering.
- 3.11.1. (Herschel Hobbs) “His holy soul drew back from the horror of becoming the very essence of sin.”
- 3.11.1.1. **Any other way?** (There must not have been)
- 3.12. (43) **An angel...strengthened Him** – Strengthened Him physically, mentally, spiritually, in the realm of **His human nature**.
- 3.13. (44) **His sweat became like great drops of blood** -
- 3.13.1. Lev.4:25 “The priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, put *it* on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and **pour its blood at the base of the altar** of burnt offering.”
- 3.13.2. Jesus, at a time where most would seek to **take** something unto them self, instead **pours Himself out** on the ground!
- 3.13.3. Remember at the heart of God's plan...was **Christ's suffering**.
- 3.13.4. Maybe we don't say anything else here, maybe it was just meant to be read?
- 3.14. (45) **Sleeping from sorrow** – It was a trying hour for them.
- 3.14.1. Actually the last **6 months**, all this talk of death & leaving.
- 3.14.2. The last **6 days** explaining “*it must still be accomplished*.”(37)
- 3.14.3. Now **this hour**, such a trying hour...that they went to sleep!

3.14.3.1. Only Luke tells us why they fell asleep. It seems to be **exhaustion** from the **strain** they were under.

- 3.15. (46) Q: Were they asked to pray for **Jesus**, or for **themselves**? (themselves 40,46)
- 3.15.1. **Jesus** had prayed & was yielded to the Father's will, He was prepared for the arrest...**the disciples were not!**
- 3.15.2. He taught the disciples that they needed to pray so **their faith would not fail**(32). Now they were to pray "**lead us not into temptation!**"
- 3.15.2.1. Their **lack of prayer** at this crucial time would help Luke's readers understand Peter's failure in the temptation that was to follow (*temptation to deny him*).

4. **THE LORD IS MY DEFENSE, I SHALL NOT SWING! (47-53)**

- 4.1. (47,48) Unmoved, fearless, because he was made strong!
- 4.2. Just like when **Joab** took **Amasa** by the beard with his right hand to kiss him, & then plunged his sword into his stomach (2 Sam.20:9,10).
- 4.3. **The Kiss** – which should have been **the sign of friendship**, but instead it was **the signal of treachery**.
- 4.4. In an attempt of a last pleading of love to awaken Judas dead conscience, He uses the tenderness of his name "*Judas*"! (from Judah/Praise)
- 4.5. (49-51) Peter, accustomed to **nets** rather than **swords**, just gets an *ear-full!*
- 4.6. **Permit even this** – "*Stop! No more of this resistance! - Let them do what they came to do.*"
- 4.7. The **last act of divine surgery** performed by the tender fingers of Jesus was made necessary by **the blundering zeal of a disciple**.⁴
- 4.7.1. I think he has been **busy ever since** healing the wounds made by the blundering zeal of disciples!
- 4.8. (52,53) His only protest was against **their method of arresting Him**.
- 4.8.1. He derides them as they have come for him with swords & club, thus showing he was not in **their hands** as much as in the **hands of God**.
- 4.9. It's **your hour**, but there's something even deeper going on here, there's a **cosmic opposition** between Satan, the ruler of this age, & God.
- 4.9.1. Here is the great clash of the **power of darkness & the Light of the world!**

⁴ G. Campbell Morgan; pg.252.

4.10. Lessons:

- 4.11. **We learn what sin is:** That caused such suffering.
- 4.12. **We learn what God is:** In **His righteousness** requiring sacrifice, & in **His love** providing it!
- 4.13. **We learn what we're called to do:** Repent, Accept, Adore!
 4.13.1. Thus being **in** Christ, & **with** Christ, we shall become **like** Christ.
- 4.14. **Your prayers might be deceptively calm,...but remember that mighty winds originate there!**

The Answered Prayers

I prayed for strength, and then I lost awhile
 All sense of nearness, human and divine;
 The love I leaned on failed and pierced my heart;
 The hands I clung to loosed themselves from mine;
 But while I swayed, weak, trembling, and alone,
 The everlasting arms upheld my own.

I prayed for light; the sun went down in clouds,
 The moon was darkened by a misty doubt,
 The stars of heaven were dimmed by earthly fears,
 But all my little candle flames burned out;
 But while I sat in shadow, wrapped in night,
 The face of Christ made all the darkness bright.

I prayed for peace, and dreamed of restful ease,
 A slumber drugged from pain, a hushed repose;
 Above my head the skies were black with storm,
 And fiercer grew the onslaught of my foes;
 But while the battle raged, and wild winds blew,
 I heard His voice, and perfect peace I knew.

I thank Thee, Lord, Thou wert too wise to heed
 My feeble prayers, and answer as I sought,
 Since these rich gifts Thy bounty has bestowed
 Have brought me more than I had asked or thought.
 Giver of good, so answer each request
 With Thine own giving, better than my best.

- Annie Johnson Flint

V. Raymond Edman, *But God!*, (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids; 1962), p. 103⁵

Movie – “Evan Almighty” carry’s this same theme.

⁵Galaxie Software. (2002; 2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.