

Revisiting Gethsemane: The Place of Intense Trial

Mark 14:32-42

March 14, 2021

Introduction: How the events of Passion Week take us back to the foundation of our Christian faith.

The Synoptic Gospels are different from the Gospel of John, but all of them provide parallel accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Gethsemane represents the place of intense suffering.

1. At Gethsemane Jesus identifies Himself fully with us in our suffering
 - a. It highlights the reality of our spiritual battle (Ephesians 6)
 - b. It demonstrates Jesus's prayer for us in suffering (John 17)
 - c. It points powerfully to our means of victory in suffering (Hebrews 2:18)
2. At Gethsemane we are invited to identify ourselves fully with Christ.
 - a. He invites His disciples into the place of suffering (Mark 14:32-34).
 - b. Paul testifies to his desire to enter into His suffering (Philippians 3:10)
 - c. To be a Christian involves entering into the suffering of Christ (Luke 9:23, Philippians 1:29)

In your suffering for Christ, remember,

- Jesus understands your experience of suffering
- He has a purpose in your experience of suffering
- He will enable you to be victorious in suffering

Discussion Questions based on Mark 14:32-42

1. What do you like about this time of year and how does it help to make the events surrounding the first Easter meaningful to you?
2. Read Mark 14:32-42 together. Share with one another your keenest impression about this little part of the Passion Week in the life of Jesus.
3. Why is what happened at Gethsemane an important part of the story of God's plan for human redemption? Why is it important to you?
4. Why do you think this time in Gethsemane was such an intense time of suffering for Jesus?
5. What do you think of His invitation to have the disciples join Him in this, and what do you think of their response?
6. How does this speak to you about Jesus's willingness to enter into our suffering? Perhaps, at this point, you could share a little of your own experience of suffering in life and how this has affected you.
7. What does it mean for Christians to identify themselves with the sufferings of Christ? (Consider Paul's words in Philippians 3:10, 1:29, and Colossians 1:24).

As you conclude, share about your own experience of suffering at this time and invite the others to pray for you.