

Holy Week

DAY FOUR

The Garden

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him. On reaching the place, He said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed. "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground,"
(Luke 22:39-44 NIV)

Reflection/Action

Watch this powerful video from The Skit Guys about the night before good Friday:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=w39N3vHn1mQ

Consider the following lessons we can learn from today's story:

- Prayer matters
- Ask your friends for help
- God can do all things
- It's okay to ask God for relief
- Prayer always works
- Don't stop praying
- Pray to avoid temptation

When have you wrestled with God about what He's calling you to? Celebrate the times you followed God, then think and pray about the times where it has felt too big for you.

Context

This passage is mentioned in not only Luke (left) but also Matthew (26:36-56), Mark(14:32-52) and John(18:1-11), thus giving a thorough picture of the whole story. Jesus goes with three of His disciples to pray. He leaves the three and asks them to pray so that they don't fall into temptation. Upon returning on two occasions He finds them sleeping including Peter, who later denies Jesus. Jesus is alone, His friends are sleeping, He knows exactly what's about to happen and is asking the Father to 'take this cup' (speaking of His death) from Him, but each time He submitted to the Father's will.

One commentator adds *'The most important impact of this night was the willingness of our Saviour to die on the cross in our place in order to pay the penalty for our sins. God "made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).'*

The picture of Jesus in the garden praying in such anguish (resulting in Him sweating blood) is a vivid one. This picture is one that reveals Jesus' humanity to us.