

MIDWEEK LENT 1: STUDENT

Peter, James, and John in the Garden of Gethsemane: Prayer

MATTHEW 26:36–44

OPENING

Read Joel 2:13 together.

Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, You have taught Your disciples and us how to pray in faith. Help us in all times and in any circumstances to turn to our Father in prayer as You have always done. Grant that we submit to the Father's will in what we think, say, and do, that all glory may be given to our triune God alone. In Your name we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Communication . . . the lifeblood of all relationships. The Lord God has always desired a relationship with those whom He has created. He has blessed us with different ways of communicating with one another. And He has given us the blessing of being able to communicate with Him, man to God, child to Father, along with the certainty that He is listening. In this study, we will look specifically at the importance of prayer, using Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane as our point of reference; we will also look at the relationship that He has with the Father.

Mark 1:35-29

Psalm 86

Psalm 119:97-104, 169-176;

Psalm 131

QUESTIONS

Q1. What was the point of taking Peter, James, and John farther into the garden with Him? What was Jesus sorrowful and troubled about, specifically? Matthew 26:36-44

Q2. First, what is God's *ultimate* will for all people as His creation? I Timothy 2:4

Second, what was God's will for Jesus Christ, His only Son? How? 1 Peter 1:17-21

Q3. What does Jesus say to the three men? How are we to understand the word *watch* in this context? Is this related to any instructions that Jesus has given for us to follow?

Ephesians 6:18

Colossians 4:2

Philippians 4:4-7

Q4. The prayer is the same. Three times the Son addresses the Father, asking God to take the cup (of suffering/of sin/of death) away from Him. Three times He prays, “Not My will, but Yours be done.” What are we to learn from *how* and *what* Jesus prays?

Hebrews 5:7-9

Hebrews 12:2, 3-11

CONCLUSION

The events of the Gethsemane narrative are full of unexpected human physical manifestations—the drops of bloody sweat, the disciples falling asleep repeatedly, and Jesus being sorrowful to the point of death. We are seeing a fully human Jesus showing the weakness of humanity but remaining without sin. We also witness Him showing a strength that we do not have in and of ourselves, but in Him we have the same Spirit that cries, “Abba, Father.” And in the end, we truly learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

OPTIONAL: SING STANZA 1 OF “GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE” (*LSB* 436).

CLOSING

Catechesis: Read the Third Petition of the Lord’s Prayer and its meaning.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God’s will done? God’s will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God’s name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Pray: The Lord’s Prayer