

<p>Vs. 1-23: Jesus is preparing the disciples for the final Passover. Jesus shifts the meaning of the Passover from the exodus from Egypt to His own sacrifice. Jesus also tells His disciples in vs. 16, 18 that He will not eat of this again until the Kingdom of God is fulfilled, indicating a bridge to a future reality. And this is why we observe the Lord's Table, we remember what He has done, and look forward to His coming. Context: There is a lot going on in this text, vs. 1-3 the Chief Priests and scribes are seeking how they might put Jesus to death, Judas is being controlled by satan to deceive Jesus. Vs. 24-36: The disciples are arguing over who is the greatest. This discussion comes after wondering which one it was going to betray Him.</p> <p>Application: Peter said of his own greatness in vs. 33, "You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" Jesus said, before the rooster crows three times you will deny me. The reason we can see is arrogance and pride in one's own will. I won't do this. I will never do that.</p>		
<p>Pt. 1 (Vs. 39-46) - Lessons from the Garden. Luke focuses on the "fully man" side in the garden. Luke highlights His human vulnerability. The need for an angel to "strengthen" Him suggests that the weight of the upcoming crucifixion—and the "cup" of divine judgment He was to drink—was a genuine, crushing burden. (A) Jesus says to pray that you don't even enter temptation. Perhaps this temptation that Jesus had in mind was the temptation to abandon God and Christ when the enemies closed in, <i>cf. 2 Timothy 1:5-7, 2:1</i>. Paul's letter to Timothy is to "stay the course and protect the truth of the gospel!", rekindle the faith, reject fear (of man) and join with me in suffering for the gospel.</p>	<p>Pt. 2 (Vs. 41-42) - Jesus withdrew alone to pray. His prayer is that "if" the Father is willing, yet He wanted the will of God to be done. If there is any other way by which sinners can be saved than by My going to the cross, reveal that way now. The heavens were silent, because there was no other way.</p>	<p>Application: We can understand this as we pray for things that are hard or difficult or trying in our life. We seek another way. We ask the Lord to remove the thorn, <i>cf. Paul's request for removal. God's response was, "My grace is sufficient for you," 2 Corinthians 12:9 "For power is perfected in weakness."</i></p>
<p>Pt. 3 (Vs. 43-44) - The angel of the Lord strengthened Him. Bad theology over the years about angels is not uncommon, such as getting wings when one dies or other bizarre ideas not rooted in Scripture. In our text, we have a servant of the Father, an angel, sent to minister to our Lord. The angel provided physical/mental encouragement to His human side. The cross was ahead of Him. The separation from the Father was coming. The fully God/fully man is evident here. He was strengthened to continue, as many of us are in times of trials as we pray and seek the Lord's guidance. (A) Luke carefully notes the physical agony of this, describing Him as sweating drops of blood. Note: There is an actual medical condition called hematomidrosis and is reported in individuals facing severe trauma, such as the fear of death, intense grief, or extreme physical exertion. Once again, the reality of His humanity, but still fully God.</p>		
<p>Pt. 4 (Vs. 45-46) - In the past, I have thought of this text as a temptation of immoral or fleshly lust. Temptation has more than one meaning. It seems in our text that the meaning is the temptation to deny God in the face of enemies. Note: Illustration in Uganda.</p>	<p>Pt. 4A - They were not sleeping because of lack of concern, but most likely from physical exhaustion. The text tells us they were sleeping from sorrow. Matthew 26:41 account is like this, "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." We dare not condemn them when we think of our own prayer lives; we sleep better than we pray, and our minds wander when they should be watching. How often has He said to us "Can you not watch with Me for one hour?" <i>Cf. Vs. 40 (Matthew 26)</i></p>	<p>Pt. 4B - Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." Christ is well acquainted with our struggles.</p>
<p>Application: The disciples were under "emotional strain" at this time, <i>cf. vs 22,23</i>. Consider vs. 2 as the political and religious climate was hostile. Many Christians around the world face such strains in countries where the governments and other religions are hostile to the gospel, <i>cf. Matthew 10:26-31</i>. Note: our Lord's commands and these will bring us to pray: three times do not fear is mentioned, vs. 26, 28, 31. Don't fear "them" and don't fear "those who can kill the body" and don't fear you are more valuable than "sparrows." John Knox, the great reformer, has on his grave marker "Here lies one who feared God so much that he never feared the face of any man." (A) These difficulties do bring strain upon those in situations of crisis or conflict. Yet, our Lord says in vs. 29, that two sparrows are cheap, but not one falls (dies) to the ground outside of the Father's will. Jonathan Edwards said, "God attends the funeral of every sparrow." (B) Furthermore, our Lord goes on to say the very hairs of your head are numbered. A strand of hair is less valuable than a sparrow, yet, we are more valuable so don't fret over trials or circumstances or afflictions. Pray and ask the Lord for help and relief, yet, not my will but yours. It's these times where our hope in a faithful and sovereign God is narrowed to displace the distractions in our lives.</p>		
<p>Pt. 5 (Vs. 46B) - Get up and pray. It's time to prepare. It's time to ask for help, strength, and wisdom. That is done by praying. John MacArthur notes, "A tender appeal to the disciples, who in their weakness were disobeying Him at a critical moment."</p> <p>Conclusion/Application: May I ask the same question Jesus asked, "Why are you sleeping?" Temptation is coming. Men will try to stop the gospel. Governments will try to limit your faith. Why are you sleeping?</p>	<p>In Edwards Resolution #57, he said, "Resolved, after afflictions, to inquire what I am better for them, what good I have got by them, and what might I have got by them." In other words, what have I learned about the hope, trust, and faithfulness of God by seeking Him in prayer in times of difficulty? Also, don't sleep on what may be coming; don't assume nothing will happen.</p>	
<p>The command for us today is to watch and pray, in times of ease or comfort there remains a danger ahead. May we sing today "Let good and kindred go, this mortal life also, the body they may kill, God's truth abides still, His kingdom is forever."</p>		