

EPISODE NO. 286

Matt. 26:36-56

Jesus Told the Apostles to Pray

36 Then Jesus and his followers went to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him. He began to feel sad and depressed. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is full of sorrow; I am going to die! Stay here and be watchful with ME.” 39 Then Jesus went forward a short distance and bowed down to pray. He said, “My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering away from ME — but what YOU want is more important than what I want.”

40 Then Jesus came to his followers. He found them sleeping. He asked Peter, “So, were you not strong enough to stay awake with ME for just one hour!? 41 Watch and pray for strength against temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

42 Jesus went away the second time. He prayed, “My Father, if this must happen, and I must drink the cup of suffering, if this is what You want, let it be.” 43 Again, Jesus came and found them sleeping. Their eyes were very tired. 44 He left them again. The third time he prayed the same prayer.

45 Then Jesus came to his followers and asked them, “Are you still sleeping and resting!? Listen, the time has come — I am now being handed over into the hands of sinful men! 46 Get up, we must go. Look! The one who turned against me is near!”

They Arrested Jesus

47 While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve apostles, came. There was a large crowd with him. They had come from the most important priests and the elders of the Jewish people. They had clubs and swords. 48 Judas, the betrayer, had given them the signal to arrest the one he would kiss. 49 Judas went immediately to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” Then Judas kissed him.

50 But Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came for!” Then the men who came with Judas reached out and grabbed Jesus. 51 Suddenly, one of the men with Jesus reached for his sword and pulled it out. He struck the high priest’s slave, cutting off his ear.

52 Then Jesus said, “Put your sword back in its place! Everyone who uses violence will die by violence. 53 Don’t you think I could call on my heavenly Father for help!? He would bring more than twelve legions of angels here! 54 But how could the Scriptures come true, if this arrest did not happen!?” 55 At that moment, Jesus said this to the crowd: “Why did you come out here to get me with swords and clubs!? Do you think I am a criminal!? I was sitting in the temple courtyard every day teaching. You did not arrest me there. 56 All this happened to make the writings of the prophets come true.” Then all of Jesus’ followers left him. They ran away.