

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"AGONY IN THE GARDEN"

For individual study or discussion

In Luke 22:39-46, we witness one of the few scenes offered to us in Scripture that provides Christological clarity into the person and work of Christ. As Jesus prays to the Father in Gethsemane, "*Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done*" (v. 42), his petition reveals that he is both fully God and fully man as he wrestles in **agony in the garden** over the cup he will drink. At the same time, he conforms fully to the will of the Father as he prepares to be the propitiation for the sins of his people (cf. 1 John 4:10 and Romans 5:9).

- *Dyothelitism* is the Christological doctrine that teaches the existence of the divine and human wills of Jesus Christ.¹ In the garden of Gethsemane, we see Jesus struggle as his human will (his agony over the thought of his own death) acts in conformity with the will of God (his willingness to endure the punishment of God's law). Discuss how Jesus' conformity to the will of the Father, even unto death, underscores his role as the second Adam. (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 and Romans 5:12-21)

The Son's dependence on the Father's will and comfort amid intense agony (vv. 39-44)

Recall from our studies in the *Gospel of Luke* the example Jesus provides as he consistently prays throughout his public ministry (cf. Luke 3:21-22; 6:12-16; 9:18-22, 28-29; and 22:32). As Jesus exemplifies the pattern of complete dependence on the Father's will, we see the Father's response of provision amid his intense agony and trial (v. 43). According to J.C. Ryle, in times of trial and affliction, our posture should resemble that of our Savior as we "*take care that we use our Master's remedy, if we want comfort in affliction. Whatever other means of relief we use, let us pray.*"²

- The Father responds to Jesus' prayer in the garden by sending an angel to strengthen him. In your moments of trial, how has God strengthened you?
- Read Psalms 6, 13, and 102:1-2. What does the psalmist fear? Discuss how these psalms resonate with the prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane.
- Read Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15-38, and Habakkuk 2:16. As you consider the agony of Christ in the garden, how do these other passages give you a glimpse into what Christ suffered as he prepared to drink the cup of God's wrath?

The necessity of prayer to resist temptation and faithlessness (vv. 40, 45-46)

Twice in the garden, Jesus instructs his disciples to "*pray that you may not enter into temptation*" (vv. 40, 46). So strong are the schemes of Satan, the best defense against temptation can be found in constant prayer (cf. Ephesians 6:18). But the disciples fall asleep, even after the Lord's admonitions to watch and pray. As summarized by one commentator, "*In Gethsemane, the disciples sleep while Jesus is praying their prayer. He alone watches and prays. He alone is wholly committed to the petition, 'Thy will be done.'*"³

- Compare Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane with the prayer he taught his disciples to pray in Luke 11:1-4. What petitions in the Lord's Prayer do you see present in Jesus' prayer? What petitions are implicit in his prayer? (from Bible Project: "*It is through his act of self-giving love that God's forgiveness and heavenly Kingdom come to Earth. This is how God's holy name is restored.*"⁴)
- What does it look like to be honest in prayer with God, while also trusting in God? How can we be working to cultivate both of these postures when we pray?
- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus faces his final test. When was Jesus' first test? (cf. Luke 4:1-13). How is Gethsemane the height of Jesus' trials?
- The creation story begins in a garden where Adam fails the test. In another garden, we see Jesus pass the test. Why do you think this is significant?

DATE: February 2, 2025

SPEAKER: John Mark/Chad

SERIES: The Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 22:39-46

RENEW: 31 Days of Prayer

DAY 21: To glorify God by giving our lives away in the city

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, as we seek to glorify you by giving our lives away in the city, we pray today for Chattanooga. We pray for our leaders—we know that even the hearts of kings are streams of water in your hand that you turn wherever you wish. We pray for our mayor and city council, that you would give them wisdom, understanding, and knowledge to govern according to your will and Word, that we might lead peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way. We pray for our strategic partners and support partners, laboring in every corner of our city and seeking its welfare. Bless their work today, for the advancement of your Kingdom. We pray for our sister churches throughout the city—since there is one body, one Spirit, one hope to which we are called, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all, please join us together in one heart and one way. We pray for the lowly in our city. Satisfy our poor with bread. Use us to help make Chattanooga a city where every family dwells in safety under their own vine and fig tree; where the widow and the fatherless are defended, and the afflicted and needy find deliverance; where justice rolls like a river, and righteousness as a mighty stream that never stops flowing. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS
Lifespring Community Health,
supported partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS
Bible Mission Global, world
missions partners

¹ McKinley, John. *Does Gethsemane Separate the Trinity?* March 27, 2013. TGC.ORG. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/you-asked-does-gethsemane-separate-the-trinity/>. 1/29/25

² Ryle, J.C. *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels: Luke, Volume 2*. 1860, NEW YORK: Robert Carter & Brothers. 421

³ Stamps, Luke. *The Lord's Prayer & the Lord's Prayer in Gethsemane*. June 22, 2010, TGC.ORG. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-lords-prayer-the-lords-prayer-in-gethsemane/>

⁴ Bible Project. *Sermon on the Mount: The Lord's Prayer*. BibleProject.com. 1/29/25.