



## CHAPTER 14

### Jesus in the Garden

#### **MARK 14:32-42**

→ *Going into this message, what were your prior thoughts and reflections on the Garden of Gethsemane scene?*

The big question: How does Jesus HANDLE, PROCESS, PREPARE for what's about to happen?

He knows that INJUSTICE, REJECTION, HUMILIATION, AGONY & DEATH are coming His way (Mark 15:15-20, Isaiah 53:3-5, Psalm 22:12-18).

#### **WHAT DID JESUS DO? What example did He leave for when bombshell lands?**

##### **1. Goes straight to the FATHER (v32,36)**

\* When crisis hits, do you run TO God or FROM God? Jam 4:8, Matt 11:28, Pr 18:10.

→ *How would you honestly answer that question? If you run to God, then why? If you've ever run FROM God, then why? Which other promises would you add to the above list?*

Comes down to 2 big questions:

a) WHO is GOD to you?

\* Is He CLOSE or DISTANT? Is it 'BIG STICK' or OUTSTRETCHED ARMS?

\* Barclay: "If we can call God FATHER, everything becomes BEARABLE."

\* When we're desperate for SECURITY, we find it in IDENTITY.

→ *So, who is God to you? Is He close or distant? In your deep psyche, is it 'big stick' or loving heavenly Abba Father? Why is this distinction so important?*

→ *"If we can call God Father, everything becomes bearable." Do you agree? How does this work?*

b) How do you value GOD'S PRESENCE? (Psalm 84:1-2, 27:4-6, 122:1)

→ *What is it about the presence of God that you need when you're in your Gethsemane? What treasure can you draw on? Do you? How strongly do you esteem the manifest presence of God?*

##### **2. Seeks COMFORT in COMPANIONSHIP (v32,34,38)**

\* 2 things we mostly deeply crave are GOD'S fellowship and HUMAN fellowship (Genesis 2:18).

→ *Are there dangers here that both introverts and extroverts face? Which three people would you take with you to Gethsemane?*

\* THE CHALLENGE: Are YOU the sort of person your friends would TAKE INTO BATTLE with them?

→ *If you're honest, what attributes do you have that would make you a desirable 'Gethsemane partner'? Is there anything you might need to work on?*

##### **3. ABSOLUTELY SURRENDERS (v36)**

\* Jesus is WILLING to go WHEREVER His Father specifies, WHATEVER the COST.

\* = ABSOLUTE SURRENDER to the WISDOM, GOODNESS & MERCY of God.

\* What we call a 'CONSECRATED heart.'

→ *"Absolute surrender might seem like an UNATTAINABLE STANDARD, but it's certainly ADMIRABLE GOAL." Discuss. Would you describe yourself as absolutely surrendered? How might we attain 'absolute surrender'? What does God do / What is God doing in your life to move you closer to that point?*

Note 1: God is WORTH FOLLOWING

→ *What is about God that makes Him worth following in your view?*

Note 2: It is your TRUST that God seeks → Is this not what He is TESTING, why He is REFINING, where He is PRUNING?

→ *How might this perspective change how you relate to challenges in your life?*

\* It may be counter-intuitive, certainly counter-cultural, but the greatest FREEDOM, VICTORY, PEACE are found in ABSOLUTE SURRENDER.

→ *How does the world view words like submission and surrender? How does a Christ-follower view them differently? Is it possible to experience true freedom, victory or peace without surrendering to God?*

##### **4. PRE-PRAYED is PREPARED (v35,38)**

IDEA: Jesus won His PERSONAL battles in PRIVATE first, so when He faced same issues in PUBLIC, it was already SETTLED.

→ *What battles did Jesus win in Gethsemane and how did that help Him over the next few days. What did it enable Him to endure and how?*

DANGER: If you haven't figured out how you're going to respond or developed a well-thought out strategy, you place yourself in the WHIM of the MOMENT.

\* Follow your FLESH/EMOTIONS/MOODS and you might not like WHERE you end up

→ *Where might your moods and emotions take you if you're not careful? What are the dangers of the 'whim of the moment'? How do you get to the point where your responses are habitually Spirit-led, love-filled, Word-based and faith-driven?*

\* Note that Peter NEGLECTED to 'watch and pray' ... the text says he FELL ASLEEP ... and therefore he FAILED the TEST, both at Gethsemane and in the Temple Courts as he DENIED Jesus.

→ *Contrast Peter's behaviour in Gethsemane with Jesus'. How did this diff. contribute to Peter's fall? How might he have done it differently if he'd heeded Jesus' warnings?*

#### **FINAL THOUGHT**

\* Jesus knew that if He TRUSTED GOD in this great trial, God would use it to accomplish the greatest VICTORY of all.

\* GOOD NEWS: If you respond to YOUR Gethsemane as Jesus did, there's NO LIMIT to what God can do.

→ *Big statement: "You'll never fulfil your true destiny without your Gethsemane. For many of us, until we arrive in Gethsemane, we will never ask the questions, pray the prayers and make the decisions necessary to take us to where, in our hearts and minds, we long to go." Discuss!*

#### **RESPONSE**

*"How do you cope with crisis? What do you do when fear hits? How do you prepare for life-defining moments?" Would your approach match Jesus? What might you change on reflection? What else do you do that you find helpful? What do you tend to habitually do that doesn't help? What has occurred to you personally as you've read this text, listened to this message and worked through this discussion?*