

**THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 1/17-18/2022 *Matthew Chapter 26:36-75***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**ZOOM ONLY THIS WEEK – CCCM CAMPUS  
CLOSED, PRAYER MEETING WEEK**

**WILL RESUME CLASSROOM + ZOOM 1/24-1/25**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

**Dial by your location**

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>**

**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**ZOOM ONLY THIS WEEK – CCCM CAMPUS  
CLOSED, PRAYER MEETING WEEK**

**WILL RESUME CLASSROOM + ZOOM 1/24-1/25**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

**Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340**

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)

**Dial by your location**

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

**Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>**

Phil Twente [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

## OPENING PRAYER

### *Matthew Chapter 26:36-75*

The Plot to Kill Jesus - (vs. 1-5); The Anointing at Bethany – (vs. 6-13); Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus - (vs. 14-16); Jesus Celebrates Passover with His Disciples – (vs. 17-25); Jesus Institutes the Lord's Supper - (vs. 26-30); Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial – (vs. 31-35); **The Prayer in the Garden - (vs. 36-46); Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane – (vs. 47-56); Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin - (vs. 57-68); Peter Denies Jesus, and Weeps Bitterly - (vs. 69-75).** See also: (*Mark 14:32-72*); (*Luke 22:39-71*); (*John 18:1-27*).

- **We're in such Holy Ground now, regarding this precious Scripture!** All of His word is Holy Ground but the three "G's" – Gethsemane; Gabbatha (*Joh 19:13*) and Golgotha – leaves us, even with the help of the Holy Spirit, seemingly to barely scratch the surface of these tremendous verses! We are told so much here of Jesus' humanity, as well as His Divinity. Mysteriously, He and He only, is perfectly God and perfectly man, willingly suffering and dying, paying the price for our sins, so that we may be forgiven and that we may be restored back to an eternal relationship with Him forever! Here we get a priceless picture of His not only sensing and enduring the physical pain and suffering, but also the tremendous emotional pressures involved in His becoming sin on our behalf! (*2Co 5:21*) *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

### *Jesus Prays in Gethsemane*

**Mat 26:36** *Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane* (place of olive pressing, crushing), *and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."*

**Mat 26:37** *And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.*

- **Jesus began to show His emotions and His contemplations.** The weight of the cross, the whole experience began to just weigh upon Him now heavily.
- **We cannot imagine what our Savior, who was totally, perfectly, sinless,** forever having such close contact with the Father, could take the sin of the world upon Him! He thereby separated Himself from the Father, who cannot commune with sin. He was alone! So alone from the Father. It had never happened! Jesus, crying out (*Mat 27:46*) *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"* that is, **"MY GOD, MY GOD** (only these 2 times, My Father 15 X in Mt.), **WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"** This had never happened and will never happen to the Godhead again, between the Father and the Son!

**Mat 26:38** *Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."*

- **Strengthen Me!** Be there! I need your help. I need your company. Watch with Me!
- **This is humanity on display!** We can see great vulnerability of God the Son speaking to three of the apostles, being totally honest and open about the condition of His heart and His longing for human fellowship and companionship in what He was facing the night before the cross. *Exceedingly sorrowful even to death.* He was being pushed to the absolute limit of His endurance. He said, *"Stay here and watch with me!"* I need you!
- **Just think, that if Jesus needed that, how important it is, when we face great difficulties, to have a few friends that can truly understand and pray for us. How available are we, am I, in making myself available to others when they cry out for such help? Do I make them feel open, as Jesus is here, to being vulnerable enough to really share with me? Is there ever a hint of criticism or being disappointed in them in their time of need? Is there any presence of my being a "miserable comforter to Job" in me?**

**Mat 26:39** *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*

(*Mar 14:36*) *And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."*

- **He fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father!"** There are certain things, even with the company of the eleven and then of the three disciples, that where He must go a bit further and that is directly to the Father. He is the only one we can interact with, in being fully effective for our life! That is, to go into

prayer with the Father. There are certain places where only God can speak the word that can impact us, encourage us and strengthen us in the way that we need. Nobody else can do it! In those times we need something from the throne of God to see things clearly! How quickly do I go to Him? Do I always go to Him first? Or is He often my last resort?

- **The prayer of Jesus.** *Father, let this cup pass from Me*, if it's possible. If what is possible? If salvation and redemption for mankind is possible by any other means, by any other method, apart from the cross at Calvary, then let this cup pass from Me. The cup of the indignation of God's wrath against sin that He was to bear for you and for me. Because as God placed upon Him all of our sins, He then died for our sins. He took the penalty and the guilt of our sins. He felt that result of sin, that separation from God that is always the result of sin. He felt all of that! *(2Co 5:21) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* The heaviness of this whole experience weighing on Him. Father, if it's possible, if man can be saved, redeemed from his sin by any other method, by being good, by being religious, by being sincere, *let this cup pass from Me!*
- **The reason why the cross of Jesus Christ offends people is because it narrows down the way of salvation to only one way.** There's only one hope for a man to be forgiven his sin. There is only one hope for heaven, and that's through the cross of Jesus Christ. If it had been possible that man could be saved by any other means, then Jesus would not have gone to the cross. *If it's possible, Father, let this cup pass from Me. Nevertheless,* and here is that beautiful submitting, *not as I will, but as You will!* How is your submission to His will? How is mine?
- **That is the wisest prayer that can be offered by anybody concerning any situation.** It is good to express to the Father what we desire and what we will, but always the deferment of my will to His will! That is not a cop-out, as some would try to claim. That's just pure wisdom. If that's a cop-out, then you'd be accusing Jesus of copping out. But that's just pure wisdom! That's glorifying God as God! That is recognizing that God is just a lot smarter than you are. That His ways are far wiser than your ways. God, this is what I like to see but You know what's best! Not my will, Your will be done!

***Mat 26:40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"***

***Mat 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."***

- **Oh, how we know that to be true in our own lives!** How often the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak! How willing am I to "watch and pray"? Do I really know just how weak in the my flesh, that I am?

***Mat 26:42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."***

***Mat 26:43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.***

***Mat 26:44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.***

*(Luk 22:43-44) Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. [44] And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

*(Heb 5:7) who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death and was heard because of His godly fear!*

- **There are those who say, You should never repeat a prayer.** You should have enough faith for something. You pray it once, don't pray it again. I ask the Lord once. I lay it in His hands and so, stay out of it. But here, Jesus prayed the same thing three times. I would take His word over what some men say.
- **Anyone who says there is another way to heaven, other than faith in Jesus Christ, not only knows nothing about Calvary and the price that was paid there. They know nothing even about Gethsemane!**

***Mat 26:45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.***

- **It seems that Jesus came back and found them asleep again!** He said, *Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand.* He knows the pressure that they're going to experience. He knows the sorrow, the disappointment that they're going to go through. He seems to be saying, You could not watch with Me, but I will watch you. He must have sat there for an hour or so. Just sitting there while they were sleeping.
- **He was probably praying for each of them.** Lord, there's Simon. He is going to mess up. He is going to just really be devastated. Help him, Father! Satan's going to take him and rake him over the coals, going to sift him like wheat. Lord, just minister, help him Lord! Most likely, He prayed for each of the disciples, just sitting there and watching. Then finally He woke them up.

***Mat 26:46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.***

- **Jesus would have known that Judas and the multitude with him** were on the way. He could have fled,

escaping the agony of the cross, but Jesus rose to meet Judas. As always, Jesus was in complete control of all events.

### ***Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus***

***Mat 26:47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve (in all four gospels!), with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.***

*(Joh 18:3,18) Then Judas, having received a detachment (cohort – 600 men) of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. [18] Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.*

- **The fact that Judas, and also the enemies of Jesus, had witnessed many miracles,** makes them realize that Jesus has supernatural power and He might use it. So when they come to arrest Him, they bring a whole crowd of armed men. Possibly the whole guard came to arrest Him.

***Mat 26:48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."***

- **It's almost unbelievable that just several hours after being with the disciples and Jesus,** having the Passover meal together, here is Judas Iscariot, *one of the twelve*, leading the enemy to seize Jesus! He had given them a sign, lest by mistake they should seize one of the disciples instead of Him, the disciples having said, in Judas's hearing, that they would be willing to die for Him. What abundance of caution was here, not to miss Him ?
- **Seize Him, for He had sometimes escaped** from those who thought to take Him. The Jews, who frequented the temple, would likely know Him, yet the Roman soldiers perhaps had never seen Him, and the sign was to direct them. Judas, by his kiss intended not only to distinguish Him, but to detain Him, while they came behind Him, and laid hands on Him.

***Mat 26:49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed (smothered with kisses) Him.***

- **The huge multitude came** there into the garden.
- **The Greek word here for "kiss"** is that of a passionate kiss of lovers. It is sort of sickening. This is the ultimate of a betrayal, that of one who have been loved and much has been personally invested.

***Mat 26:50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.***

***Mat 26:51 And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.***

- **We know from John's gospel that the "one"** was Peter.
- **From Luke we know it was his right ear.** Luke, being a physician, also told us (*Luk 22:50-51*) *And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. [51] But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him. Jesus picked the ear up, healed it, put it back on! From John, (Joh 18:10) Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.* Putting all the gospels together and you get sort of the whole picture.

***Mat 26:52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.***

***Mat 26:53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions (72,000) of angels?***

- **Peter, I don't need your defense.** I don't need your support that way. I could pray to the Father right now. He would send twelve legions of angels. Now, we read that one angel destroyed a hundred and eighty-five thousands of the Assyrian troops in one evening! Imagine what twelve legions of angels could do—More than 13 billion destroyed! I believe that God had to use restraining force against the angels from intervening at this point. That the angels had to be restrained or they would have come and just ripped man up for this horrible, horrible action!

***Mat 26:54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"***

- **I could do that, but then the scriptures wouldn't be fulfilled.** So, He recognizes that this is the fulfillment of the prophecy. For Me to deliver Myself or seek divine deliverance from this, then the scriptures could not be fulfilled that speak of the redemption for man that would be brought to us by God!

**Mat 26:55** *In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.*

- **Give Peter credit!** There were multitudes, a big crowd with swords and spears. Peter was going to take them all on! He starts with Malchus, the closest to him. He starts swinging. Now the interesting thing is that he cut off his right ear, which if Peter was right-handed, means that Malchus was going away from him, to clip his right ear.
- **In the same hour Jesus then addressed the multitudes** that had come. He is confronting them in their cowardness. He said, Have you come out with the riot squad like you're looking for a thief coming out with your swords and spears to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple. You didn't lay any hands on Me. You could have arrested Me then.

**Mat 26:56** *But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.*

- Their scheme had been predicted, especially in *Psalm 22; Isaiah 53; Zechariah 12-13.*

### ***Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council***

**Mat 26:57** *And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.*

*(Joh 18:13) And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year.*

*(Joh 11:49-50) And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, [50] nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish."*

- **They had called this night assembly**, which was actually unconstitutional, but at this point, they weren't interested in the fine points of their laws.

**Mat 26:58** *But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.*

- **He was following, not close, he was afar off!** Now John was inside. John had connections. He was right inside. But Peter was there just sort of on the fringes. He wanted to see what was going to happen. How often am I following Him from afar or at a distance, instead of being close to Him, as I should be?

**Mat 26:59** *Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death,*

- **They were looking for charges** by which they might put Him to death. To have a cause, a legal cause to execute Him. This is just what we call a "kangaroo court!" They already have the verdict. Now they are just trying to some witness that they could use as a charge for killing Jesus.

**Mat 26:60** *but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward*

**Mat 26:61** *and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' "*

- **Jesus did mention, Destroy this temple and in three days, I will build it again.** But He was talking about the temple of His own body and His resurrection. This was a misinterpreting of what Jesus said. They said, this temple, which is the temple there in Jerusalem. Jesus was talking about the temple of His own body. So, he brings up this charge against Jesus.

**Mat 26:62** *And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?"*

**Mat 26:63** *But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"*

- **Notice here is a question that Jesus can answer constructively.** He is asking Jesus to declare whether He is 1) the promised Messiah of the Jews? 2) Whether His is the Son God, this is, Divine? Jesus broke His silence because for the first time, Jesus was asked a question which was worthy of being answered. If they were going to deliver Him to be crucified, then they were at least going to deliver Him to be crucified for the right reason. And not for some noise and nonsense about destroying the temple, but that He would be crucified because He declared Himself to be the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God
- **Now this is with an oath, he is taking an oath.** He said, *I put You under oath by the living God.* I command you by the living God. Tell us if You are th Christ, the Son of God! Now in those days, the

rabbis all believed that the Messiah would indeed be the Son of God. Tell us if You are the Messiah, the Son of God. They expected the Messiah to be the Son of God.

- **Today the rabbis say no, we don't believe Jesus is the Messiah** because He said He was the Son of God. The Messiah is not the Son of God! He is going to be a man like Moses was a man. Therefore, we reject the claim of Jesus because He claimed to be the Son of God. But the rabbis all believed in that day that the Messiah would indeed be the Son of God. "Unto us a Son is given." "This is My beloved Son! This day, have I begotten You!" "The Lord said unto my Lord, You are My beloved Son. This day I have begotten You! So, they expected the Messiah! You are you the Messiah, the Son of God?"

**Mat 26:64 Jesus said to him, "It is as you said ( "I AM" - other three gospels). Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."**

- **Jesus gave such a remarkable response to this religious community! He declared Himself to be the Messiah!** He declared Himself to be **the Son of God!** And He declared **that one day He would return to the earth, speaking of His second coming, and He would come in judgment!** In other words, gentlemen! At this moment in time, I am being judged by you, but this will not be the final judgment of this scene or of your life. Not only am I the Christ! Not only am I the Son of God! But I will come back to this earth, and I will ultimately judge you!

**Mat 26:65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!**

*(Lev 10:6a) And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, "Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. (Lev 21:10) 'He who is the high priest among his brethren, on whose head the anointing oil was poured and who is consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes;*

- **The priests got it!** Even the high priest tore His clothes, saying He has spoken blasphemy. What further need do we have of witnesses? We've all heard it, right from His own mouth!

**Mat 26:66 What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."**

- **Their response was utter nonsense.** But that what they were there for. They had the verdict that they already decided upon ahead of time!

**Mat 26:67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,**

**Mat 26:68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"**

*Luk 22:64) And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?" (Mar 14:65) Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands. (Isa 52:14) Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;*

- **The crowd began to get out of control.** It was now getting rough. They were really beginning to abuse Jesus. Spitting on Him! Pushing Him! Shoving Him! Beating Him! In this rough treatment, the crowd getting out of control! This is way before the trial in front of Pilate and the Roman soldiers. This mob beating was at the hands and in the presence of Israel's religious leaders! God, help me not to be like these religious men, claiming to represent God. You wouldn't do that to a felon, in the name of God. You let justice be meted out, but not for us to take in our hands.
- **It's important for us to realize** that everything about this trial of Jesus on that morning was a complete farce! More than that, **it was a violation of the Jew's own laws and understanding of the law of Moses, in terms the conducting of a trial.** What they had to ignore from their own scriptures and traditions to do this. They violated everything!
- **Here are ten violations. Other lists are even longer.** Jesus was arrested illegally. It was a private night proceeding. The Sanhedrin illegally proceeded to hold its trial of Jesus before sunrise. The Sanhedrin was illegally convened to try a capital offense on a day before an annual Sabbath (holy day). The trial of Jesus was illegal because it was concluded in one day. The indictments against Jesus were false or unproven. The condemnation of Jesus by part of the Sanhedrin was illegal because those who might have voted against His condemnation were not there. The sentence against Jesus was pronounced in a place forbidden by law. Most Sanhedrin members themselves were legally disqualified to try Jesus. They illegally switched the charges against Jesus from blasphemy to treason before Pilate.

**Peter Denies Jesus**

**Mat 26:69** Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee."

**Mat 26:70** But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." (Joh 18:15-17) And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. [16] But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. [17] Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."

**Mat 26:71** And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth."

**Mat 26:72** But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"

- **They would take an oath to affirm truth.** In other words, I swear by the Bible. I put your hand on the Bible and swear that I'm telling the truth. So, you take an oath! I swear by the Bible. I swear by God! I swear by my mother's honor! I swear by Boy Scouts. You take this oath to affirm that what you are saying was really true. Imagine taking an oath and then lying! "I do know not the man!"

**Mat 26:73** And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you."

(Joh 18:26) One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"

- **The Galilean accent**, you can't hide it. So, if my speech is giving me away, Peter thought, by my speech I will try and prove that I'm not a disciple!

**Mat 26:74** Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.

- **The crowing of the rooster was like a dart** going through the heart of Peter, as it reminded him of the words of Jesus just earlier that evening. "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." His response to Jesus was, Lord, I would die for You! I would never deny You. And yet he did! The failure of the flesh, the disappointment because of the failure of the flesh. May we learn from Peter's prideful mistake!

**Mat 26:75** And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

(Luk 22:61) And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

- **Those bitter tears shed because of the consciousness of the weakness of the flesh.** The failure, letting the Lord down in that moment of truth. The truth often hurts. Knowing what's in our heart is often painful. Discovering the weaknesses of our flesh is bitter medicine. He wept bitterly. But in the weeping bitterly, there is the sign of remorse and of repentance. Thus, there was forgiveness! Now Judas, who had betrayed the Lord, when he brought back the money, went out. But, rather than weeping bitterly, he went out and he hung himself. The response and the reaction to the recognition that I really made a drastic, horrible mistake.
- **There are those times when we are desperate.** We get to the point, where we don't know what to do. Where to turn. Many times, in that pressure of the moment, the emotions and all that are running so high, people oftentimes then make tragic mistakes. Because you've come to the place where you've got to reach out beyond yourself. Some reach out to God, and they find the help and the strength that they need. Others reach out for a bottle. Others reach out for pills. Some, tragically reach out for a gun. Where do you turn? Where do you reach when you've come to your own limits, when you've come to the end of yourself?
- **Judas went out and hung himself.** Peter went out and wept bitterly. To live another day, to see a glorious ministry, to have the opportunity of being restored and used of God as one of the mighty leaders and the apostles in the early church. There is restoration! There is forgiveness! There is the opportunity again of being used by God! We've all failed. "There is none that is righteous, no, not one." We've all come short of the glory of God. But there is forgiveness with Him. Merciful, kind, gracious, loving, compassionate, tender, forgiving, that's our Lord! Peter experienced all of those and was restored.
- **Even as God wants to restore you tonight.** You may have failed! You might be in the midst of it, in an unseemly kind of an experience right now of rebellion against God, the weakness of your flesh being manifested and you're feeling miserable over it. But there is forgiveness! There is love! There is compassion. There is restoration!

**SUMMARY** -

**Mat 26:38** *Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."*

- Am I readily available toward others who call on me to watch and pray with them? Am I open and compassionate, or critical, being as a "miserable comforter," as Job's comforters were?

**Mat 26:39** *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*

- In times of my greatest need, how quickly to I go directly to Him? Do I always go to Him first? Or is He often my last resort?

**Mat 26:40-41** *Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? [41] Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

- How willing and available am I to watch with Him for even an hour? Do I understand "watch and pray lest you enter into temptation?"

**Mat 26:58** *But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.*

- Do I ever follow Him from afar or at a distance, instead of being really close to Him, as I should be?

**Mat 26:74** *Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.*

- Remembering Peter's promise, that though the other disciples may deny our Lord, he never would. Then to deny Him three times! May we learn from Peter's prideful mistake!
- **Lead me to Calvary! Jesus paid it all!**

### **SONG:**

**JESUS PAID IT ALL** – Elvina Hall; John Grape – Gaither/Ivan Park (4:38)

*I hear the Savior say, Thy strength indeed is small; Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all. Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

*For nothing good have I Whereby Thy grace to claim I'll wash my garment white in the blood of Cal'vry's Lamb. Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

*And when before the throne I stand in Him complete, Jesus died my soul to save, My lips shall still repeat Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow. He washed it white as snow.*

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Read Matthew Chapter 27!**