

## He was at the Place

Luke 22: 39-44

We have been privileged to have an intimate look into the life of our Savior in the hours prior to His crucifixion. These are some of the most moving and revealing images that are recorded in the life of Christ. The setting for these verses is in the Garden of Gethsemane, a place very familiar to our Lord. It was a place that Jesus often retired to for rest while in Jerusalem.

These are the last moments that Jesus will spend prior to His betrayal, arrest, trial, and horrific crucifixion. What a beautiful picture we find in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is here that Jesus received the cup from His Father's hand. The first Adam rebelled in sin in the Garden of Eden bringing death and destruction to fallen man. Jesus, the last Adam submitted in the Garden of Gethsemane bringing salvation and restoration to all who believe. As the Lord leads, I want to preach on the phrase in [V.40: He was at the Place](#). Let's take a few minutes to discover the wonderful [truths](#) that are found in that place.

**I. A Place of Sovereignty** (39-40a) – [And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. \[40\] And when he was at the place...](#) We must keep in mind that these events are taking place just after the Last Supper in the Upper Room. Our Lord has just washed the disciple's feet and Judas has gone out to betray Him. Jesus has come to a familiar place, but this time spent in Gethsemane will be much different. Jesus has His eyes fixed on Calvary; He knows that His hour is soon approaching.

- Gethsemane was a place that Jesus knew well. [He was at the place](#). I can imagine the Lord as He stood in eternity past, creating the world, viewing the Garden of Gethsemane and the hill of Calvary. These were no ordinary places; these were places that would have eternal implications.
- Here we see that Jesus well understood why He came to earth. The disciples were looking for an earthly kingdom with Jesus as King. He hadn't come to establish a kingdom in Israel, but to redeem mankind. Just a few days before Jesus spoke these words to Andrew and Philip: [Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.](#)
- We don't find One who has resigned to defeat, fleeing for fear of His life; we find our Lord preparing Himself to fulfill the will of God. The life of Jesus had been no mistake. He hadn't somehow missed His opportunity for greatness. This is not an account of events that had gone tragically wrong. Jesus came to offer Himself for us!

**II. A Place of Sympathy (40b)** – [And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.](#) Jesus was well aware of what lay ahead. In a short time, Judas would come with the soldiers. He would be led away and tried as a common criminal. The suffering and shame that He would soon bear is beyond our comprehension.

- Even in His wisdom of what He would face, we find Jesus showing compassion for those who followed Him. Rather than seeking their sympathy and compassion, Jesus reveals His affection for the disciples. He knew when He was taken from them their lives would become difficult. He understood they would have questions without answers. The One in whom they had trusted, the One who had worked such mighty miracles and spoke with such wisdom and power would be led away and crucified.
- The Lord wanted them to pray for strength. He desired their faith to be strong as they faced the uncertainties ahead. [John 17](#) records the powerful prayer that Jesus prayed for the disciples and all believers this very night.
- That type of love and compassion is beyond my ability to comprehend. Jesus is about to face the torments of the cross and yet He is concerned with those who follow Him. Jesus had us in mind prior to the cross. What a loving, compassionate Savior we serve! Never think that Jesus isn't mindful of your situation. Never think that He doesn't care what you are facing. In His moments of agony, Jesus took time to pray for you!

**III. A Place of Solitude (41)** – [And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed.](#) Jesus withdrew Himself from the disciples. Matthew reveals that He took Peter, James, and John to a place that the other eight were not taken to. He goes on to say that Jesus [went a little further](#). He had brought those who were closest to Him, but even they were not able to go all the way.

- Jesus understood that this was a cup that He must drink Himself. This was a burden that He must bear alone. He was the only One who was worthy to fulfill salvation. It wasn't something that could be shared with the disciples. He had come to provide salvation for them. They were unable to secure redemption for themselves; that was the work of the Savior.
- I am well aware that Jesus was fully God as He came robed in flesh, but He was also fully man. He felt the same emotions that we do. He knew what it was to suffer pain and loneliness.
- No doubt this night was such a time. Jesus has removed Himself from those who loved Him so that He might accomplish the Father's will. He came to do what we never could. He came to die that we might live. Aren't you glad that Jesus was willing to go a little further for us? He alone had the power to secure our salvation and He did that by Himself. [Heb.1:3 - Who being the](#)

brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

**IV. A Place of Submission (42) – Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me:**

**nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.** Here we find the prayer of Jesus unto God the Father. The other gospels reveal that Jesus prayed this prayer three times. It wasn't a prayer of rebellion or rejection; this was a prayer of submission. It is here that we find the commitment of our Lord to fulfill God's will for mankind. He was looking toward Calvary and the suffering He would endure. His humanity knew this would be an awful cup to drink.

- I want us to understand, this wasn't someone who had committed crimes worthy of death. This wasn't a man who was fleeing justice for his actions. This is the holy Lamb of God. This is the only begotten of the Father. He is the One who came to give life, not take it away. He is the One who was moved with compassion for the multitudes, bringing hope and healing to all He met. He is the One who raised the dead, calmed stormy seas, cast out demons, and changed lives.
- The One who brought life to those who believed on Him has submitted to the death of the cross. The King of glory is about to taste death and yet He is willing to submit to the will of God the Father.

**V. A Place of Suffering (43-44) – And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.**

**[44] And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.** We will never know just how our Lord felt as He faced the cross. We will never know the intensity of the pain He felt. These verses give us a bit of insight to the sufferings of Gethsemane.

- It was there an angel came to minister unto Him. The angels were not worthy to die for men, but they were able to strengthen our Lord in His difficult hour.
- His humanity dreaded the scourging that lay ahead, the ridicule, the shame, and the death. That alone is bad enough, but we must remember that Jesus is the eternal God Man. His flesh dreaded the physical pain and suffering, but His deity was repulsed by the sin that was to be placed upon Him. Jesus is the second person of the Godhead. He has the very nature of God. He came as a man and lived life as a man, and yet He never sinned. There was no fault or sin found in Him at all. He endured all that Satan could throw at Him; He faced every temptation and lure of the world that we do and yet without sin.
- Has there been a time in your life where you have failed and come short, giving in to temptation and sin? I have been there and many times my soul is grieved because I have allowed sin into my life. There are times we are literally ashamed of the things we have done. Now

imagine never knowing sin, never doing one thing that was outside of God's will or contrary to His nature and having the sins of the world placed upon you. Jesus became sin for us. He bore the guilt and shame for the sins of the world. Can you begin to imagine how He must have felt as the sin of the world was placed upon Him?

- It is here that Jesus suffered in [agony](#), literally a struggle for victory, combating the attack of Satan. Jesus is in anguish of the soul, beginning to feel the burden of sin and facing the devil's attack. He is in such agony and struggle that [His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground](#). We aren't sure if this is a literal description, but there is a condition known as *hematidrosis*, a rare physical phenomenon where under great emotional stress, the tiny blood vessels in the sweat glands rupture, producing a mixture of blood and sweat. Whatever the case, Jesus suffered great agony in Gethsemane. He suffered for you and me.

**Conclusion:** As I read these verses I was reminded of a loving Savior who endured my sin to provide my redemption. Jesus has already suffered the penalty for our sin. He has already drunk your cup for you. Have you trusted Him as your Savior? If not then you stand accountable for your sin and you will face the cup of God's wrath. Why not come to Jesus today? He loves you!