

Luke 22:40 & 46

When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

I have read today's verses many times and they never really popped out to me like they did this last time when I read them. Read them again, and as you do, think about it; Here you are, about to be crucified, and you have your eleven closest guys with you, and you walk together to your favorite place to pray, which is the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane.

† **Luke 22:39** *Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him.*

And as you are heading there, what would you tell your closest friends to pray for? Now I know we just read what Jesus told them, or maybe you overlooked it like I have in the past. But be honest, if this were you, what would you ask others to pray for? Now before you answer, notice I didn't ask how you would ask others to pray for "you" but rather, what would you ask them to pray for?

Thinking of how we have been taught to pray. Wouldn't you ask them to pray for God's protection so you wouldn't get hurt?

Maybe you knew this wasn't going to be an easy task, and a rather difficult one, so wouldn't you ask them to pray for God to help you get through this?

How about asking them to pray that God would supply a bunch of money to pay these people off so you wouldn't even have to go through this at all?

I'm sure we could go on with more examples, and hopefully you thought of other things to tell them to pray for. But when I read what Jesus told them to pray for, and not just once, but twice within the same night, possibly less than an hour apart. I was inspired as it reminded me that this is Jesus saying this, so I wasn't shocked. But I would be shocked if Jesus told the eleven to pray how we think He should had told them to pray, which would have been to ask them to pray for Himself, which we normally ask others to pray for when something big is coming our way.

But we must remember that this is the same Jesus, Who was their Teacher, Leader, closest friend and Mentor. This same Jesus, Who never thought of Himself, but others first, and had washed their feet when they should had been washing His feet. This same Jesus did not tell them, nor was He concerned with Himself to the point that He would tell them to pray for Him. Instead, He tells them to pray for themselves and one another. Because if you were one of the eleven and Jesus just said to all of you to "*Pray that you may not enter into temptation.*" Wouldn't we join together and pray this very thing for one another, that none of us would enter into temptation?

If you read back eleven chapters here in Luke, you would read of when the disciples asked Jesus to “*teach us to pray*”

† **Luke 11:1** *Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."*

Which He did, and this was another of those, I am still teaching you to pray, moments. Because if you think about it, one of our biggest struggles in prayer is wanting things to be done our way, and we may even have the right intentions behind our way. I remember our buddy Peter’s response to Jesus when Jesus told them that He was going to the cross, and how Peter responded, probably the same way we would.

† **Matthew 16:21-22** *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"*

And as good as that sounded, and was possibly from Peter’s heart, or at least his mind thinking he knew better than Jesus, Jesus responded with:

† **Matthew 16:23** *But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

That’s what happens when we allow our thoughts and even our emotion direct us. We pray, “*Lord, Your will be done*” but in our minds we are thinking, “*as long as it’s my will*”. You see, Jesus told them several times what He would go through on the cross, and even why, yet they were thinking with their heads, and not with the heart and wisdom, as Jesus was pouring into them with His words, and Jesus knew that; therefore, Jesus told them to “***Pray that you may not enter into temptation***”.

You have to ask yourself when you read that, if they would had done what Jesus told them to do “***Pray that you may not enter into temptation***”. Would we be reading something totally different in the bible about their prayer life and obedience to the Lord, and would Peter still had denied Jesus?

Now we know that Jesus knew that Peter would deny Him, because Jesus also knew that they would not be in prayer like He told them too. But we can’t go back to “what ifs”, but we can learn from what happened and what Jesus said, just like the disciples learned from it.

So, read and study God’s word, that way when you pray, you will learn the will of God and pray more according to His will and not your own... and the results, you will see more prayers answered, because it’s God’s will.

† **2 Corinthians 1:11 (NLT2)** *And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety.*

† **Colossians 1:9 (NLT2)** *So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.*