

Mark 14:37-38

Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

We all know the story of how Peter denied Jesus three times, and we try to use that as a learning opportunity to remind ourselves not to deny the Lord, but to boldly share our faith with others. Which is a good thing.

But here is something else we tend to overlook in this account. If you remember, Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane praying, and when He went there He took three of the Disciples (*Peter, James, and John*) with Him. When He did, Jesus also gave them instructions on what to do while they were there.

† **Mark 14:33-34** *And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch."*

† **Luke 22:40** *When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."*

The instructions were to “*Stay here*” and “*watch*” and “*pray*” and we know by today’s verse, that they did stay where they were supposed to, but they did not “*watch*” or “*pray*” because you can’t keep an eye out or pray if you are sleeping.

But it seems that the church now a days is content with staying (*stay here*) inside the church, yet it does not do anything, and the world is heading in a downward spiral more and more every day because the church is not watching, nor is it praying. Because if the church is asleep and doing nothing, how can it watch and pray?

But if you think about it, both Jesus and Peter were in the same garden, both knew that they had a tremendous task at hand (Jesus on the cross, and Peter about to be tempted to deny Jesus), and both had the same opportunity to pray.

Now, we know that Jesus prayed. And not just prayed, but He PRAYED!!!

† **Luke 22:44** *And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

And we know the result of Jesus praying was that Jesus overcame sin and death on the cross.

† **Philippians 2:8** *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

† **Romans 8:2** *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Whereas, Peter slept instead of praying, and what was his result?

† **Luke 22:60-62** *But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, **"Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."** So Peter went out and wept bitterly.*

So, next time you think prayer doesn't really make a difference, remember the Garden and the Triumph of the One Who did pray, and the Failure of the one who didn't pray.

† **Mark 14:38 (NLT2)** ***Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.***

† **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*