

Luke 10:39 "She had a sister named Mary, which also sat at Jesus" feet and heard his word."

## **NEWSLETTER:"MOMENTS WITH MARY"**

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### **"A GARDEN PRAYER"**

Mt 26:36 LB "Then Jesus brought them to a garden grove, Gethsemane, and told them to sit down and wait while He went on ahead to pray."

Have you ever been faced with an upcoming situation that was so overwhelming you knew you had to be bathed in prayer and power from the LORD to be able to handle it? Sometimes we are aware of traumatic future events and make at least some spiritual preparation so you can face it with God's peace. I think of those who have been told they have cancer or some disease and they are facing unpleasant treatments and unfamiliar procedures! How can you prepare your heart and mind to prevent panic or confusion? Jesus took some close friends with Him to a garden and asked them to wait near by while He went alone to seek the Father's face.

We need the support of others, but there times when we are required to walk alone. We are the one who has the illness or problem! Our attitude is very important. We need to get beyond our fears or doubts to confidence that nothing will happen to us without God's knowledge and permission. Some things are ordained for our lives. Jesus fully knew the purpose for His coming to Earth! While those purposes were never far from His mind, He enjoyed much of His life with loved ones during His years on Earth. But at the appointed time, He needed to be fully prepared to fulfill His mission without faltering. He talked with His Father in a garden prayer.

Gethsemane! The word means place of pressing! An oil press was set up in olive groves so the ripe fruit could be crushed and fresh oil obtained. As we read of the agonies Jesus went through in that garden, He was surely pressed down and crushed in His soul! V.37-38 LB "He took Peter, James and John with Him and began to be filled with anguish and despair. Then He told them, "My soul is crushed with horror and sadness to the point of death.....stay here.....stay awake with Me." Does Jesus understand and care when we suffer? When we read about this garden prayer, we are convinced the answer is yes!

What about when we want the LORD to remove some area of suffering, be it physical or emotional, don't let the enemy make you feel guilty! Look at v.39.b "My Father! If it is *possible*, let this cup be taken away from me. But I want Your will, not mine!" Jesus fully knew what it meant to accept His cross! It was the reason He had come to Earth! Only His Blood could save man from eternal hell! No one else was worthy! His Divine nature knew the answers before He spoke them, but His human nature found the agony repulsive! *Then why go* to the garden and pray such a crushing prayer?

He had asked his friends to stay awake with Him, but when He turned around, all three disciples were fast asleep! (v.40) How disappointing to find that others are unable to stay along side you in your agony! Jesus warned them again! V.41 LB "Keep alert and pray! Otherwise temptation will overpower you. For the spirit indeed is willing, but how weak the body is!" Sometimes we feel abandoned by those we think should be standing with us! I wonder if this was written to show us even *His closest friends* failed to watch and pray with Him? How lonely He must have felt, knowing they were near by, but sleeping, totally unaware of the struggle He was

going through! Is this part of the Crucifixion story to wake us up to the fact that others are suffering all around us while we are sleeping, dull or not alert to their needs?

Jesus accepts the Will of the Father! V.42 No matter how bitter, how difficult, He would do His Father's Will! In Luke 22:43 we read that an angel came to strengthen Jesus. Even so, in v.44 He prayed with such agony of spirit that He sweat great drops of blood! He shed His blood emotionally before going to the Cross! Today we think of prayer gardens being lovely quiet places we can go to meditate and seek the face of the LORD. But the garden where Jesus prayed that night was bathed in sweat and tears and blood as He struggled with the rejections, lies, betrayals, and beatings before being nailed to the Cross! What are we called to endure before we see victory?

Why should we want to share the burdens of others? After all, so many times we ourselves have felt abandoned to face our cross alone! Do we forget that Jesus said take up your cross and follow me? If we are following him, and our cross gets too heavy, he is there with us to lift the load! There are times when our loved ones, our friends can not walk the road we are on. Our burden does not fit their shoulders! Our pain has enlarged our understanding of his suffering! Our aloneness has enlightened our discernment. The distractions were all removed, only you and the Lord are there! His hour to face his cross had come. The hour to face ours will surely come also. V.46 Rise let us go. Time for the garden prayer, and time for action! We get prepared on our knees! If we don't get the victory there, we will not have it in the midst of our battles! When our heart and mind lines up with the Spirit and Will of God, He enables to endure to the end of our trial. In Christ we are more than conquerors. (Rom.8:35-37)

Garden prayers enabled Jesus to face his accusers with a calm but bold voice. He spoke out the facts firmly as He stood face to face with them! v 53-56 He knew when to speak out and when to hold his peace! It takes great character, great strength to accomplish that! We can only do this with His help! When the high priest ask him if he was the Christ, the Son of God, Jesus confirmed that He was! That gave them something more to think about! V64. We have read the crucifixion story over and over, heard it preached, gone to Good Friday and Easter Services. The diversity of the people surrounding Jesus from the garden to the cross is actually representative of people today! Who are you most like? Those who wept at the foot of the cross or those who mocked and scorned him, without realizing they were killing the only One who could ever save them?

Although Christ suffered greatly before the Cross, during the Cross, and actually died, His garden prayers enabled Him to be the Victor! He rose from the grave! Today He lives! The angel asked, "Why seek the Living among the dead?" Today He is our Savior! His sufferings were not in vain! When we submit to the Will of God, He strengthens us and enables us to endure until the victory comes! He never abandons us! Through Christ we can do all He requires of us! Thank the LORD for all the Blessings we have because He faced the cross and arose, that we too can walk in victory!

If you have prayer request, questions or comments, I can be reached at the above addresses.  
Enjoy this Joyful Easter Season! ~ ~ ~ ~ Love and Blessings, Mary Mayko

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**MOMENTS WITH MARY NEWSLETTER MARCH- APRIL 2007**



## **WATCH AND PRAY!**

**By Mary Mayko 2007**

**He left the Last Supper and walked up the hill.  
It was time to prepare to fulfill His Father's Will.**

**Three disciples went with Him to watch and pray.  
Then He asked them to wait as He went off a little way.**

**He knelt in the Garden of Olives beside a large stone,  
And He struggled in agony for God's Will, all alone!**

**Then rising to His feet seeking comfort from the three,  
Asked "Why are you sleeping instead of praying for Me?"**

**"Watch and pray, for you are weak and you surely will fall!  
As the Enemy troubles your soul, on the Lord you must call!"**

**Back to the garden He went and falling on His knees,  
The Savior cried out with sweat, blood and tears in His pleas.**

**Again He came to His friends, but all sound asleep as before!  
Then back to the garden to seek His Father once more!**

**"Not My will, but Thine be done, I will drink this cup!  
Now I am ready to die for all, and that Cross to be lifted up"**

**In the gardens of agony, we sometimes will have to go,  
But with His help and strength, we have victory we know!**

**The struggles we face in life, must be won on our knees today,  
We must always watch and pray, for there really is no other way!**

**Excerpt from "Voices of the Heart" by Mary Mayko  
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