

## **Gethsemane**

Matthew 26:36-56

by Don Falkos

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At Gethsemane, Jesus took Peter, James and John away from the others and said, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

He went off a short distance, prostrated himself, and prayed. "Father, if it's possible, take away this cup of suffering that I'm drinking from. But don't do what I want. Do what you want."

Jesus went back to his disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you keep watch for even an hour? Oh, I know... the spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Three times he went off to pray, and each time, when he came back, his followers were asleep. Then he called out, "The time has come! The Son of Man is betrayed!"

Just then Judas, one of the twelve apostles, arrived with a crowd armed with swords and clubs. He came up to Jesus, called him "Teacher," and kissed him. It was a prearranged signal.

Jesus said, "My friend, why are you here?"

Jesus was arrested. A man with Jesus drew a sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

Jesus told him, "Put that away. Those who use the sword will die by the sword. Don't you realize, if I asked, my Father would instantly send legions of angels to protect us."

Then Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I some sort of dangerous criminal that you come after me with swords and clubs? I was with you every day, teaching in the temple. Why didn't you arrest me there? Still, the scriptures must be fulfilled."

All of Jesus' followers deserted him and ran away.