

Maundy Thursday  
Can You Watch for One Hour?  
Matthew 26:36-46

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As Dramas go, this one is most dramatic. Jesus feeling pressed, crushed, sorrowful, troubled, walks out of the upper room into the moonlight to meet his Heavenly Father. Beneath an Old Olive tree the Son and Parent meet to sort out the why's, the would it be possibles, the neverthelesses of what's about to take place. Even to read it from a distance is to sense its soul searching intensity.

To All--who wonder if Jesus was really Human--Go to Gethsamine  
---struggle with some dark night of the soul--Go  
--all who desire a deeper walk with God--

In one way or another, on this HOIY Thursday Night, we too will decide. Will we sleep? Or Will we Surrender.

## I. THE DISCIPLES SLEPT.

A. The request is critical--STAY HERE AND KEEP WATCH WITH ME. said Jesus.

1. What is this neediness of the omnipotent, weakness of the almighty, searching of the sovereign?

a. How can the divine be dependent upon the human? the immortal in need of the mortal? What's happening here.

2. Joey, Family Circus Cartoon--saying his prayers. And last but not least, Dear Lord, take care of yourself. If you don't we're all in trouble."

3. God delights in our devotion. Welcomes our worship. Rejoices in our praise, is honored by our company.

a. Isn't that what the story of the Prodigal is all about. ---Chinese Artist portrayed the Father seeing the son far down the road. With arms folded across his chest, I told you so expression on his face, one could see the father thinking out loud--I wonder what kind of hard luck story he's contrived this time.

b. Not right--Father running excitedly toward the prodigal his robes falpping in the wind, a look of joy on his face, SANDALS THAT DIDN'T MATCH---So excited to see him that he grabs the closest shoes and runs even if they don't match.

## B. QUESTION IS SOBERING? COULD YOU NOT KEEP WATCH WITH ME FOR ONE HOUR?

1. Tired-- healing sick, curing lame, feeding the hungry, controlling the crowd, juggling for position--such endless activity leaves you tired---
2. Bored--Boredom is one of the 7 deadly sins. Bored people yawn through the Grand Canyon, Sleep through a sunset.
  - a. To be bored is to turn down whatever life happens to be offering you at the moment. It is to feel nothing is worth the excitement. And the best that you could hope for is to die in your sleep.
3. How shall we escape EMBARRASSMENT?
  - a. choosing trivial over the triumphant
  - b. being busy instead of being better
  - c. spending energy on non--essentials.
  - d. being petty instead of powerful.

## II. JESUS SURRENDERS.

Not my will but thine be done,  
Cried the Father's own Son  
As he knelt that lonely night in Gethsamine

### A. TO SURRENDER IS TO SAY YES TO THE BEST THAT IS IN US.

#### 1. Mixed--

Within my earthly Temple there's a crowd  
There's one whose humble and one whose proud  
There's One whose sorry for his Sins  
And one who unrepentent sits and grins.  
From much corroding care I would be free  
If I could once determine which is me.

1. I got ME on my hands.---
  - a. I am selfish, ambitious, competitive, weak, weary and often wrong.---
  - b. When I come alive in Christ, the best is about to be.
2. Nouwen--So much of me wants to do my will, realize my plans, organize my future, and make my decisions. All the while God is calling me to higher ground.
  - a. We lose the I that is in order to find the I that ought to be.

### B. TO SURRENDER IS TO YIELD TO THE WILL OF GOD.

1. Nevertheless, not as I will but as you will.
2. Is there a yield sign on your right of way?

3. God knows best.

4. The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God will not keep you.

### C. TO SURRENDER IS TO RISE AND FOLLOW

1. v. 46 Rise, let us go!

2. M.L. King--Knock at Midnight--There comes a moment in every life to answer the call. We don't anticipate it, plan for it, strategize it, engineer it--We only RESPOND--If we wait until we're better, we'll never come at all.

Somebody's knocking at your door  
Could you watch with me for one hour?