

# Luke 22:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

## Analysis

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**When he was at the place** (γενόμενος ἐπὶ τοῦ τόπου, genomenos epi tou topou)—This specific location within the Mount of Olives was Gethsemane. Jesus immediately commanded: **Pray that ye enter not into temptation** (προσεύχεσθε μὴ εἰσελθεῖν εἰς πειρασμόν, proseuchesthe mē eiselthein eis peirasmon). The word temptation (πειρασμός, peirasmos) means 'trial' or 'testing'—the disciples were about to face the severest test of their faith.

Jesus knew what was coming: His arrest, their scattering, Peter's denials. His first instruction wasn't 'comfort me' or 'stay awake,' but pray for yourselves. Prayer was their only defense against the crushing disillusionment that would assault them within hours. This echoes the Lord's Prayer: 'Lead us not into temptation' (Luke 11:4). Christ modeled what He commanded—withdrawing to pray (v. 41)—but the disciples failed to heed His warning (v. 45). Spiritual warfare is fought on our knees; those who neglect prayer will fall in testing.

## Historical Context

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The Passover night carried deep significance. Jesus and His disciples had just celebrated the Last Supper, instituting communion (22:14-20). Afterward, they sang a hymn (Matthew 26:30) and walked to Gethsemane, arriving late at night. The Mount of Olives' olive groves provided seclusion for prayer but also darkness for Judas' betrayal. Within hours, the disciples would indeed 'enter into temptation'—fleeing their arrested Lord, with Peter denying Him three times.

Those who prayed (like Jesus) would endure; those who slept (like the eleven) would collapse.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Jesus prioritize the disciples' prayer preparation over His own need for their support?
2. How does prayerlessness make you vulnerable to spiritual collapse during testing?
3. What 'temptation' (testing) might you be approaching that requires prayer fortification now, before the crisis arrives?

## Interlinear Text

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γενόμενος δὲ ἐπὶ τοῦ τόπου εἶπεν αὐτοῖς  
he was And at the place he said unto them  
G1096 G1161 G1909 G3588 G5117 G2036 G846

Προσεύχεσθε μὴ εἰσελθεῖν εἰς πειρασμόν  
Pray not that ye enter into temptation  
G4336 G3361 G1525 G1519 G3986

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 6:13** (Parallel theme): And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

**Luke 22:46** (Prayer): And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

**1 Peter 4:7** (Prayer): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

**Revelation 3:10** (Parallel theme): Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

**Psalms 119:133** (Parallel theme): Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

**Psalms 17:5** (Parallel theme): Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

**1 Chronicles 4:10** (Parallel theme): And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

**Luke 11:4** (Parallel theme): And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

**Psalms 19:13** (Parallel theme): Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.