

Luke 22:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and
kneeled down, and prayed,

Analysis

Withdrawn from them about a stone's cast (ἀπεσπάσθη ἀπ' αὐτῶν ὥσει λίθου βολήν, apespasthē ap' autōn hōsei lithou bolēn)—Jesus separated Himself approximately 50-60 feet, far enough for privacy but close enough to remain visible. Luke alone mentions He **kneeled down** (θεῖς τὰ γόνατα, theis ta gonata), a posture of humility and submission. Matthew and Mark record He fell on His face (Matthew 26:39), suggesting He began kneeling and progressed to full prostration under the weight of anguish.

This physical distance mirrors the spiritual isolation Jesus was entering—the disciples could not follow where He was going. His kneeling posture contrasts sharply with their reclining in sleep (v. 45). The 'stone's cast' distance becomes prophetic: soon these same disciples would deny knowing Him, putting far greater distance between themselves and their Lord. In Gethsemane, Christ begins drinking the cup of divine wrath alone—a preview of Calvary's ultimate forsaking (Matthew 27:46).

Historical Context

Jewish prayer customs varied: standing (Luke 18:11), sitting (Talmudic references), or kneeling (1 Kings 8:54, Daniel 6:10). Kneeling expressed special humility and earnestness, often used in desperate supplication. A 'stone's cast' (λίθου βολή) was approximately 50-60 feet, a standard measurement in ancient reckoning. Gethsemane's olive trees would have partially obscured Jesus from the

disciples, giving Him privacy while keeping Him within their potential awareness—if they had stayed awake. The Garden of Gethsemane was likely enclosed with walls, providing seclusion from passersby.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' physical posture in prayer reveal about the intensity and humility required for spiritual warfare?
2. Why did Jesus need to pray alone, beyond the hearing and support of even His closest disciples?
3. When you face overwhelming spiritual battles, do you withdraw to pray or seek distraction in company?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	αὐτῶν	ἀπεσπάσθη	ἀπ'	αὐτῶν	ὡσεὶ	λίθου	βολήν
And	he	was withdrawn	from	he	about	a stone's	cast
G2532	G846	G645	G575	G846	G5616	G3037	G1000

καὶ	θεὶς	τὰ	γόνατα	προσηύχετο
And	kneeled down			and prayed
G2532	G5087	G3588	G1119	G4336

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:39 (Prayer): And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Mark 14:35 (Prayer): And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

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