

Mark 14:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

Analysis

And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane (Γεθσημανί, Gethsēmani)—from Hebrew גַת שְׁמָנִים (gat shemanim, 'oil press'). This olive orchard at the Mount of Olives' foot became the stage for Jesus's most agonizing prayer. Mark's sparse narrative contrasts with Luke's medical details (sweat like blood) but shares the geographic precision.

Sit ye here, while I shall pray (καθίσατε ὅδε ἔως προσεύξωμαι)—Jesus separates the eight from the inner three (Peter, James, John, v. 33), creating concentric circles of intimacy even in crisis. The present subjunctive *proseuxōmai* implies ongoing, repeated prayer—not a single petition but sustained wrestling with the Father's will. This separation foreshadows His ultimate aloneness in bearing sin.

Historical Context

Gethsemane was likely a private olive grove Jesus frequented (John 18:2), making Judas's betrayal more intimate—he knew where to find Jesus in solitude. The Thursday night setting (14 Nisan, Passover eve) heightened the tension: while Jerusalem slept off the Passover meal, Jesus faced the true Paschal sacrifice. Roman guards would soon arrive with torches (John 18:3) to arrest the Light of the World.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. When facing your own 'Gethsemane' moments, do you isolate completely or maintain circles of intimacy for support, as Jesus modeled?
2. How does Jesus's deliberate choice to pray in a familiar place challenge our tendency to avoid locations associated with past spiritual struggles?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔρχονται εἰς χωρίον οὗ τὸ ὄνομα Γεθσημανῆ·

And **they came** **to** **a place** **which** **was named** **Gethsemane**

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καὶ λέγει τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ Καθίσατε ὅδε ἔως

And **he saith** **disciples** **Sit ye** **here** **while**

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προσεύξωμαι

I shall pray

G4336

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:36 (Parallel theme): And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Mark 14:39 (Prayer): And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.

Psalms 109:4 (Prayer): For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer.

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