

Mark 14:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?

Analysis

In Gethsemane, Jesus found disciples sleeping and said to Peter: 'Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?' (Σίμων, καθεύδεις; οὐκ ἴσχυσας μίαν ὥραν γρηπνῆσαι;). This gentle rebuke addressed Peter specifically—he who boasted loyalty (v. 29, 'Though all shall be offended, yet will not I') couldn't stay awake one hour. The question format shows disappointment, not harsh condemnation. Jesus needed support during His agony, yet disciples slept. The request to 'watch one hour' (grēgorēsai, γρηπνῆσαι) meant vigilant prayer (v. 38). Their sleep foreshadowed desertion (v. 50). This warns against presumption—we're weaker than we think. Peter's confidence proved hollow; Jesus' warnings proved accurate. Yet Jesus' gentle tone shows patience with human weakness. He understands our frame (Psalm 103:14).

Historical Context

Gethsemane ('oil press') was olive grove on Mount of Olives where Jesus often prayed (Luke 22:39). The night before crucifixion, Jesus experienced intense spiritual agony, sweating blood (Luke 22:44). He took Peter, James, and John (His inner circle) for support, asking them to watch and pray. Their repeated sleeping (three times, vv. 37, 40, 41) showed human weakness despite good intentions. Peter had boldly declared loyalty (v. 29), even willing to die (v. 31). Within hours he'd deny Jesus three times (vv. 66-72). This illustrates human frailty and need for divine strength. Jesus' address 'Simon' (not 'Peter,' the rock) may indicate

disappointment. Yet Jesus understood—'the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak' (v. 38). This became paradigm for Christian experience: holy desires versus sinful reality, requiring grace.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Peter's confident boasting followed by sleeping warn against presuming upon our own spiritual strength?
2. What does Jesus' gentle rebuke despite disappointment teach about how He relates to weak, failing disciples?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|------------|-------|---------------|--------|---------------|-------|-------|
| καὶ | ἔρχεται | καὶ | εὕρισκει | αὐτοὺς | καθεύδεις | καὶ | λέγει |
| And | he cometh | And | findeth | them | sleepest thou | And | saith |
| G2532 | G2064 | G2532 | G2147 | G846 | G2518 | G2532 | G3004 |
| τῷ | Πέτρῳ | Σίμων | καθεύδεις | οὐκ | ἴσχυσας | μίαν | ὥραν |
| G3588 | unto Peter | Simon | sleepest thou | not | couldest | G1520 | hour |
| | G4074 | G4613 | G2518 | G3756 | G2480 | | G5610 |

γρηγορῆσαι

thou watch

G1127

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:40 (References Peter): And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

Hebrews 12:3 (Parallel theme): For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Matthew 25:5 (Parallel theme): While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

2 Samuel 16:17 (Parallel theme): And Absalom said to Hushai, Is this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend?

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