

Matthew 26:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

Analysis

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane (Γεθσημανί, Gethsēmani)—meaning 'oil press,' this garden at the Mount of Olives became the arena of Christ's greatest spiritual warfare. **Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder**—Jesus deliberately separated himself even from the disciples for the most intense prayer of his earthly life. The Greek proseuxōmai (προσεύξωμαι) indicates earnest, prolonged supplication.

This verse marks the transition from the Upper Room's teaching to Calvary's sacrifice. Jesus, knowing fully what awaited him (John 18:4), chose willing submission rather than escape. The garden setting parallels Eden—where the first Adam failed through disobedience, the last Adam would triumph through obedience unto death (Romans 5:19).

Historical Context

Gethsemane was an olive grove on the western slope of the Mount of Olives, across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem. During Passover, when the city was overcrowded, pilgrims often camped in such gardens. Jesus frequented this place (Luke 22:39), making it familiar to Judas. Olive oil production gave the garden its name—olives were crushed in heavy stone presses, a fitting metaphor for Christ's coming anguish.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why did Jesus separate himself from even his closest disciples for this prayer, and what does this teach about the solitary nature of his atoning work?
2. How does Jesus's deliberate choice to enter Gethsemane, knowing what awaited him, demonstrate the voluntary nature of his sacrifice?
3. What does the location 'oil press' symbolically reveal about the crushing spiritual weight Christ was about to bear?

Interlinear Text

Τότε	ἔρχεται	μετ'	αὐτῶν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	εἰς	χωρίον	λέγει
Then	cometh	with	them	G3588	Jesus	unto	a place	called
G5119	G2064	G3326	G846		G2424	G1519	G5564	G3004
Γεθσημανῇ,	καὶ	λέγει	τοῖς		μαθηταῖς	Καθίσατε	αὐτοῦ	
Gethsemane	and	called	G3588		unto the disciples	Sit ye	here	
G1068	G2532	G3004			G3101	G2523	G847	
ἕως	οὗ	ἀπελθὼν	προσεύξωμαι		ἐκεῖ			
while	G3739	I go	and pray		yonder			
G2193		G565	G4336		G1563			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:42 (Prayer): He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

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.

Hebrews 5:7 (Prayer): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

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