

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

Γεθσημανῆ, καὶ λέγει τοῖς μαθηταῖς Καθίσατε αὐτοῦ
Gethsemane **and** **called** **G3588** **unto the disciples** **Sit ye** **here**
G1068 G2532 G3004 G3101 G2523 G847

ἔως 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;

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org