

Luke 22

Submitted by Chan O'Dell

Highlight – Luke 22: 39-44

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. 40 On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” 41 He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Explain

Knowing that he would soon be leaving the disciples, Jesus knew they would need strength to continue without him physically present. Jesus specifically instructed the disciples to pray regarding temptation, knowing they would need strength to face temptations – temptation to flee, temptation to deny a relationship with Jesus, and at this death, the temptation to think they had been deceived and that he wasn’t the Messiah. Jesus himself turned to prayer, expressing anguish about his coming suffering and crucifixion. He asks if possible that God take it away, but ultimately submits to God’s will. An angel appears, providing him strength as he continues to pray.

Apply

This passage highlights the power of prayer and obedience, even in the most difficult circumstances. God wants us to come to him in all circumstances, including distress, fear and temptation. He will provide us with the strength to navigate any situation, even those we would choose to avoid if possible. Jesus modeled this as he agonized and prayed about the coming crucifixion, submitting to God’s will.

Respond

Lord, too often I pursue my own will only to be discouraged or disappointed with the outcome. Help me to be more like Jesus in going to you in prayer, knowing that you can provide the strength needed to obey your will and to face even the most challenging situations. Amen.