



## *Jesus Conquers Grief to Do God's Will; the Disciples Don't*

“Awake, sword...against the man who is close to me,” says Yahweh of Armies. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; and I will turn my hand against the little ones...two parts...will be cut off...but the third will be left” – Zechariah 13:7-8

[Matthew 26:31-32, 36-46, Gethsemane, Wednesday midnight] *When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples over the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered.*

Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of me tonight, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ [Zechariah 13:7] But after I am raised up, I will go before you into Galilee.”

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go there and pray. *Pray that you don't enter into temptation.*” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be greatly sorrowful and severely troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here, and watch with me.”

He went forward a little, *about a stone's throw*, fell on the ground on his face, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass away from him, saying, “Abba, my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what you desire.”

**Stay here, and watch with me**

He came to the disciples, and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What, couldn't you watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray, that you don't enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Again, a second time he went away, and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cup can't pass away from me unless I drink it, your desire be done.” He came again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy, and they didn't know what to answer him. He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time, saying the same words. *An angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. Being in agony he prayed more earnestly. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.*

Then, *when he rose up from his prayer*, he came to his disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and said to them, “Sleep on now, and take your rest. It is enough. Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Arise, let's be going. Behold, he who betrays me is at hand.” [Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:42-46, John 18:1]

1. Why does Jesus ask Peter, James and John to watch with him? Why ask the cup to pass?
2. What has Jesus asked of you? Did he find you awake? How can you avoid sleeping today?
3. Jesus, you fought grief and resolved to save me, despite the cost; today I'm praying not to...