

# Pray Like Jesus

## Today's Message: "The Gethsemane Prayer"

### Message Study Guide

#### Introduction

The Gethsemane events and prayer of Jesus Christ found in Matthew 26:36-46 are truly one of the most amazing and remarkable recorded events in all of Scripture. Out of all the truths we have to ponder in this account, one of the greatest has to be the special emphasis that John 18 adds to the account. John's gospel makes it perfectly clear that even at His lowest, weakest and darkest point in His life, there was never a time that Jesus ever ceased to be God. Man never had the upper hand; man never controlled or manipulated Him; man never made Him do anything that had not predestined and foreordained before the foundation of the world. Jesus Christ as God remained God at all times.

The second amazing thing about this account is that Jesus never wavered from the fact that He truly believed that His Father was working all things after the counsel of His own will. He never doubted God's love and goodness; He never rebelled against God's will, and He never sinned against God by running from God's will. Rather, He prayed an amazing prayer that included, "Not my will, but Thy will be done". The challenge for all of us if we are going to pray like Jesus is to align our wills with His will.

This Gethsemane prayer is truly shocking, disturbing, over-whelming, life-changing, and is brutally and painfully honest.

#### Discussion Points

Jesus Christ is God! That truth was never more evident than when the soldiers came to take Him from the garden by force, yet it was Jesus who knocked all of them (500 or more) to the ground by simply saying the words, "I AM HE". This was just one of many demonstrations in the garden that He was still God and in complete control.

#### Discussion Questions

1. At the end of the first prayer in Matthew 26, Jesus closed the prayer with one of the most important phrases in Scripture. "...not as I will, but as thou wilt". Why is that simple phrase so vitally important to prayer?
2. Why do you think it was necessary for Jesus to prove to the Roman soldiers and to His own disciples over and over again that He was God in John 18? Name the different examples of this in John's account.
3. What can you learn about yourself from the fact that each time Jesus returned to His disciples after praying, He found them asleep?
4. Do you pray to get from God or give to God? Do you pray with a willingness to accept God's will?

#### Think About It

Because Jesus was God, He knew everything that was about to happen to Him after the events and prayer of Matthew 26. Shame, suffering, the cross, and even death; Yet, He remained faithful to doing the absolute will of His Father no matter what!

#### Do Something About It!

Try praying this week by adding the words, "not my will, but Thine be done" to the end of all your prayers. Aligning our wills to His will allows us to better pray like Jesus.

#### Be Willing To Change

"O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."  
Matthew 26:39