



**The DAILY JESUS NEWS #301**  
**Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest:**  
**Jesus Offers His “High Priestly Prayers”**

**Jesus Prays Prays the Second and Third Time at Gethsemane**  
**MK 14:37-42 (Parallel Texts: MT 26:40-46; LK 22:45-46)**

=====

37 He rose from prayer and <sup>M</sup>returned to his disciples and found them sleeping, <sup>L</sup>exhausted from sorrow.

*“Why are you sleeping?” he said to them. <sup>M</sup>“Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could <sup>MT</sup>you men <sup>M</sup>not keep watch <sup>MT</sup>with me <sup>M</sup>for one hour? 38 <sup>L</sup>I command you to get up and <sup>M</sup>watch and continue to pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

39 <sup>M</sup>Once more, <sup>MT</sup>a second time, <sup>M</sup>he went away and prayed the same thing.

<sup>MT</sup>*“My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”*

40 <sup>M</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. <sup>MT</sup>So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

41 <sup>M</sup>Returning the third time, he said to them, *“Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 42 I command you to rise! Let’s go! Here comes my betrayer!”*

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	The Garden of Gethsemane, on Mount Olivet
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus’ Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest
	Jesus Offers His High Priestly Prayers
Title	Jesus Prays the Second and Third Time at Gethsemane

In today's reading Jesus continued his agonizing prayer for the second and third time, while his disciples slept on, exhausted from stress and sorrow. As Jesus said, their flesh was indeed weak. Since they were too tired to pray, and they were under far less stress than Jesus, we can appreciate the depth of need that our Lord felt in these hours, and the great value that he placed upon time alone with his Father in prayer. He is our perfect example.

What was the "cup" that he prayed to have removed from him? Consider Ps. 75:7-8.

*"God is the Judge; he puts down one, and exalts another.*

*For there is a cup in the hand of the Lord, and the wine foams.*

*It is well mixed, and he pours out of this.*

*Surely all the wicked of the earth must drain and drink down its dregs."* (NASV)

There are many other references in the Old Testament to the "cup" of God's wrath, or opposition to sin. He has decreed that "the wages of sin is death." The moment a person commits their first sin in life, we place ourselves under the judgement of death. *"All the wicked of the earth must drain and drink down its dregs."*

Jesus had agreed to drink the "cup" of judgement in our place, the righteous in behalf of the unrighteous. This was his purpose in coming to this earth as our Savior. As the horror of what that meant was closing in on him, he needed to be sure that it was truly the Father's will for him.

Jesus had never chosen to say or do a single thing that had compromised his holiness and purity as the Son of God. Was it right to give up what he had given his whole life to protect and nurture? Jesus could not become sin in our behalf flippantly. Was this truly his Father's pleasure?

The Father's answer to Jesus' prayer is one of the most significant truths revealed by Jesus' life. The Father essentially said to Jesus, *"There is no other way for the sins of the world to be removed than for you to die in payment for them."*

Jesus had acknowledged that anything was possible for his omnipotent Father. However, it was not morally possible to forgive sin without enforcing the judgement of death. Otherwise, God would become a liar and his decrees would become unreliable. Sin requires judgement. Either sinners paid the price themselves, or Jesus paid it for them. Either way, all sin must be judged.

The message of Gethsemane from the mouth of God is that there is no other way that an omnipotent God can devise to deal with our sins other than judging it. God's righteousness demands his judgement. His mercy and love provided his Son as our Substitute payment. Our forgiveness required his payment. It could be no other way.

Jesus left Gethsemane freshly strengthened to face the cross in the conviction that it WAS his Father's perfect plan for him to become sin on our behalf. He could let go of his own righteousness and be judged as a sinner. In fact, sacrificing his own righteousness was the only "right" thing to do, for it was the most loving thing to do in the circumstances. Jesus was ready to embrace the cross. There was no other way to obtain our forgiveness than to drink the cup.

This reading concludes the gospel's description of Thursday of Passion Week. 24 Postings in the DAILY JESUS NEWS have covered just six or seven hours of this day, from evening to midnight. Jesus' final hours in prayer had prepared him to face the agony of the cross that purchased our atonement.

APPLICATION:

Forgiveness is not cheap. Our forgiveness at Chris's expense was the most expensive thing that will ever be purchased in the history of the universe. Nothing else will ever come close to this.

Because our need for forgiveness is constant, and we receive it so repetitively, it is easy to become numb to the cost of it. Gethsemane should remind us of the price Jesus paid to forgive us. Jesus had said, **"The person who is forgiven little, loves little."** (LK 7.48) The death of Jesus shows us all that we have been forgiven very much indeed.

*Do you ever take your forgiveness for granted?*

*How can Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane assist you in changing that attitude?*