

“HOW DO YOU HANDLE YOUR GETHSEMANE?”**MATTHEW 25:36****INTRODUCTION****AS WE COME TO DEAL WITH THIS TEXT TODAY, LET US FIRST ATTEMPT TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, “WHERE IS GETHSEMANE?”****GEOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING, GETHSEMANE IS A GARDEN OUTSIDE OF JERUSALEM, AT THE FOOT OF MOUNT OLIVES. IT IS THE PLACE WHERE JESUS WAS ARRESTED.****PSYCHOLOGICALLY, IT IS A STATE OF MIND. IT IS A SENSE OF AGONY. IT IS THE MOMENT WHEN ONE “SWEATS BLOOD AND SHED TEARS.”****IT IS A TIME WHEN ONE WANTS TO RUN AWAY AND HIDE IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH GOD HAS PLACED UPON HIM.****GETHSEMANE IS A PLACE WHERE THE GREAT ISSUES OF LIFE ARE FOUGHT OUT.****IT IS A SPOT WHERE THE MOUNTAINS SEEMS TOO STEEP TO CLIMB, AND THE WATERS SEEM TOO DEEP TO WADE THROUGH – AND THE BURDENS TOO HEAVY TO CARRY.****WHERE IS GETHSEMANE? IT IS EVERYWHERE, EVERYWHERE ONE TURNS, HE MUST MEET GETHSEMANE.****YOUNG AND OLD, RICH AND POOR, THE LEARNED AND THE UNLEARNED.****THE MAN OF THE BATTLEFIELD IS IN GETHSEMANE EVERY HOUR OF THE DAY.****A MAN LOSING HIS JOB AT FIFTY, THE LONELY GIRL FEELING SHE IS NOT SOCIALLY ACCEPTED; THE MAN DYING OF CANCER; PARENTS STANDING OVER THE DEATH BED OF THEIR ONLY CHILD; THE MINISTER RESTRAINED**

FROM PREACHING THE GOSPEL AS HE SES IT; ARE ALL IN A FORM OF GETHSEMANE.

- I. THE QUESTION IS NOT, WHETHER WE SHALL GO TO GETHSEMANE OR NOT, BECAUSE IT IS DECREED THAT WE ALL WILL COME TO GETHSEMANE, OR GETHSEMANE WILL COME TO US. BUT THE QUESTION IS HOW DO YOU HANDLE YOUR GETHSEMANE?
 - A. SOME OF US GO TO GETHSEMANE WEIGHTED DOWN WITH PROBLEMS.
 1. AND OUR MIND CRACK AND WE END UP IN A MENTAL INSTITUTION.
 2. AND STILL SOME OF US COMMIT SUICIDE.
 3. OTHERS TRY TO DROWN THEIR PROBLEM WITH DOPE AND ALCOHOL.
 - B. SOME OF US GO TO GETHSEMANE WITH BROKEN DOWN AND SICK BODIES.
 1. SOME OF US LOSE OUR FAITH IN GOD AND ASK, WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?***
 - C. SOME OF US GOT TO GETHSEMANE AND LOSE OUR MORAL INTEGRITY.
 1. WHEN THEY ARE HAVING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, RATHER THAN TRUST GOD THEY WILL RESORT TO STEALING AND GAMBLING.
 2. WE WILL ROB AND DEFRAUD OTHERS.
 - D. THERE ARE OTHER WHO GO TO GETHSEMANE AND COME OUT STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE.
 1. THEY CAME OUT WITH A HALO AROUND THEIR HEADS.

2. **THEY COME OUT WITH A GLOW ON THEIR FACES.**
 3. **THEY COME OUT WITH A SPARKLE IN THEIR EYES.**
 4. **AND THEY COME OUT WITH A CONVICTION IN THEIR VOICES.**
- C. **SOME OF US GO TO GETHSEMANE FACING A CROSS AND COME OUT BEATEN AND LICKED,**
- D. **WHILE ANOTHER GOES TO GETHSEMANE AND RETURNS SINGING, “GLORY HALLELUJAH.”**

II. **WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE IN HOW YOU HANDLE YOUR GETHSEMANE?**

- A. **IN ORDER TO FACE GETHSEMANE AND COME OUT VICTORIOUSLY, ONE MUST BELIEVE IN SOMETHING WORTHWHILE.**
1. **ONE MUST BELIEVE IN HIMSELF, BELIEVE THAT HE IS SIGNIFICANT.**
 - a. **BELIEVE THAT HE IS SOMEBODY BECAUSE HE IS A CHILD OF GOD.**
 - b. **BELIEVE THAT HE WAS BORN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, AND THAT HE IS OF WORTH AND VALUE.**
 2. **ONE MUST BELIEVE THAT EACH PERSON IS SENT INTO THE WORLD TO DO SOMETHING WORTHWHILE. AND THAT IF HE DOESN'T DO IT, IT WILL NOT BE DONE.**
 - a. **IF COLUMBUS HAD NOT DISCOVERED AMERICA, SOMEONE ELSE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DISCOVERED IT.**

- b. **BUT IF JESUS HAD NOT UTTERED THE WORDS IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, THESE WORDS WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN UTTERED.**
 - c. **IF ADMIRAL PERRY HAD NOT DISCOVERED THE NORTH POLE, SOMEONE ELSE WOULD HAVE DISCOVERED IT.**
 - d. **BUT IF SHAKESPEARE HAD NOT WRITTEN HAMLET, AND MACBETH, THE CHANCES ARE GREAT THAT NOBODY ELSE WOULD HAVE EVER WRITTEN THEM.**
 - e. **IF LINCOLN HAD NOT FREED THE SLAVES, SOMEBODY ELSE WOULD HAVE EMANCIPATED THEM.**
 - f. **BUT IF PAUL HAD NOT WRITTEN THE THIRTEENTH CHAPTER OF FIRST CORINTHIANS, IT WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN GIVEN TO MANKIND.**
 - g. **IF CONSTANTINE HAD NEVER RECOGNIZED CHRISTIANITY, SOME OTHER PERSON WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED IT.**
 - h. **BUT IF AUGUSTINE HAD NOT WRITTEN “THE CITY OF GOD,” IT WOULD NEVER HAD BEEN WRITTEN.**
- 3. TO BE ABLE TO STAND THE TROUBLE OF LIFE, ONE MUST HAVE A SENSE OF MISSION AND THE BELIEF THAT GOD SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD FOR A PURPOSE: TO DO SOMETHING THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL DO.**
- a. **YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT IF YOU DON’T DO IT, IT WON’T BE DONE.**
- 3. TO BE ABLE TO GO THROUGH A SERIES OF GETHSEMANES AND NOT COME OUT BEATEN BY LIFE, ONE MUST ALSO BELIEVE IN MANKIND, NO**

MATTER HOW LOW HE HAS SANKED ON THE SCALE.

- a. MANKIND IS BAD, BUT HE IS ALSO GOOD.**
- b. MAN IS WORTH SACRIFICING FOR.**
- c. MAN IS WORTH LIVING FOR.**
- d. AND MAN IS WORTH DEDICATING OUR LIVES TO HIS SERVICE.**
- e. MANKIND MAY NOT BE WHAT HE OUGHT TO BE, BUT HE IS THE BEST CREATURE GOD HAD MADE.**
- f. WE MUST CLING TO THE BELIEF THAT MAN CAN YET BECOME THE KIND OF PERSON GOD CREATED HIM TO BE.**

B. WE CAN OVER COME OUR GETHSEMANES IF WE HAVE AN ABIDING FAITH, THAT GOD, NOT MAN, IS THE ULTIMATE, AND THAT HE HOLDS THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD IN HIS HAND.

- 1. WE MUST BELIEVE THAT THOSE OF US WHO STRUGGLE FOR A BETTER WORLD, DON'T STRUGGLE IN VAIN.**
- 2. WE MUST BELIEVE THAT TRUTH IS BETTER THAN A LIE.**
- 3. WE MUST BELIEVE THAT JUSTICE IS BETTER THAN INJUSTICE.**
- 4. WE MUST BELIEVE THAT IT IS BETTER FOR MEN TO LIVE IN PEACE THAN FOR THEM TO LIVE AT WAR.**
- 5. WE MUST BELIEVE THAT EVEN THOUGH HE LOSE A BATTLE, WE MUST KEEP ON FIGHTING TO WIN THE WAR.**

E. WE CAN OVER COME OUR GETHSEMANES AND RETURN TRIUMPHANTLY WHEN WE PRAY THE RIGHT PRAYERS.

1. PRAYER REACHES ITS HIGHEST PEAK WHEN WE ASK GOD NOT TO SHIELD US FROM STRUGGLE AND HARDSHIP, BUT TO GIVE US THE STRENGTH TO ENDURE TO THE END.
2. WE SHOULD NOT ASK GOD TO SUBDUE THE MOUNTAIN, BUT GIVE US THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO CLIMB THEM
6. WE SHOULD NOT ASK GOD TO NARROW THE WATERS, BUT TO GIVE US THE STRENGTH TO CROSS NO MATTER HOW WIDE.
7. WE SHOULD NOT PRAY TO BE PROTECTED FROM TEMPTATION, BUT STRENGTH TO FACE THEM WITHOUT YIELDING TO IT.
8. WE SHOULD NOT PRAY TO GOD TO SEPARATE US FROM PEOPLE WE DON'T LIKE, BUT PRAY FOR THAT CHRISTIAN GRACE THAT WILL HELP US TO MINGLE WITH ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN, WITHOUT PREJUDICE.
9. PRAY NOT TO BE SAVED FROM PHYSICAL DEATH, BUT FAITH TO FACE DEATH UNAFRAID.

III. I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THIS IS THE WAY THAT ALL THE MEN OF GOD FACED THEIR GETHSEMANE'S.

A. THIS IS THE WAY THAT MOSES FACED HIS GETHSEMANE'S.

1. WHEN PHARAOH'S ARMY WAS BEHIND THEM.
2. WHEN THEY GOT TO THE RED SEA.
3. WHEN THEY RAN OUT OF WATER TO DRINK.

4. WHEN THE BREAD RAN OUT.
 5. HE FACED HIS GETHSEMANES WITH THE RIGHT KIND OF PRAYER.
- B. DANIEL'S GETHSEMANE WAS THE LION'S DEN, BUT HE HANDLED IT IN THE RIGHT WAY.
- C. SHADRACH, MESCHACH AND ABEDNEGO GETHSEMANES WAS IN THE FIRERY FURNACE.
1. BUT THEY KNEW HOW TO HANDLE IT.
- D. DAVID'S GETHSEMANE WAS WHEN HE HAD TO RUN FROM SAUL FOR HIS LIFE.
1. BUT DAVID PRAYED THE RIGHT PRAYER.
 - a. "I WILL LIFT MINE EYES UNTO THE HILLS FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP. VFOR MY HELP COMETH FROM THE LORD WHICH MADE THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH."
- E. JOHN THE BAPTIST HAD TO FACE HIS GETHSEMANE WHEN HE TOLD HEROD THAT HE COULD NOT HAVE HIS BROTHER'S WIFE.
1. THEY CUT OFF HIS HEAD BUT THEY COULD NOT DESTROY HIS SOUL.
- F. PAUL HAD TO FACE HIS GETHSEMANE ON HIS WAY TO NERO'S CHOPPING BLOCK.
2. PAUL'S PRAYER WAS, "FOR I AM NOW READY TO BE OFFERED, AND THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND. I FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH. HENCEFORTH THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE SHALL GIVE ME AT

**THAT DAY. AND NOT ONLY TO ME, BUT UNTO
ALL THEM THAT LOVE HIS APPEARING.”**

G.