

Maundy Thursday

The Garden of Gethsemane

After singing a song at the Passover meal, Jesus and his disciples went to a garden called Gethsemane. It was getting to be quite late in the evening, so everyone was whispering. Jesus was especially quiet, and walked a bit ahead of the rest of the group. He looked as if He was sad and upset about something. He stopped and whispered to some of the disciples, "Sit here while I pray."



Then, with Peter, James, and John he walked just a little bit further and told them, "My heart feels heavy, and I feel very sad. Please stay here and keep watch, I need some company close by." The disciples looked at each other; they had never seen Jesus like this before.

Then Jesus walked a bit further by himself. Next to a big tree he knelt down with his face to the ground and began to talk to God. He prayed, "My Father, I know that I am about to go through some horrible things; I wish I wouldn't have to, but it doesn't matter what I want, I will do whatever you want."

When He had finished praying, He went back to where the disciples were to find that they had fallen asleep on the ground. Jesus woke them and said to them, "Couldn't you have stayed awake for me for just a little while? You should also pray that you will continue to do what God wants."

The disciples felt bad, and tried to keep their eyes open. But when they started praying, they fell asleep. Two more times Jesus went off to pray the same prayer as before, and when he was finished He came back to his friends -- disappointed to find that they had fallen asleep once again.

The third time Jesus woke them saying, "Are you sleeping again? Enough! It is time to go. Here comes the man who is about to give me up to the people who want to hurt me."

While He was still speaking, Judas, one of Jesus' disciples was coming towards them. He was followed by a large crowd of people who were carrying swords and clubs. Judas walked right up to Jesus and gave Him a kiss on the cheek. This was a sign to the chief priests that this was Jesus, and that He was the man that they wanted to arrest.



Jesus let them take Him. But one of Jesus' disciples didn't like what was happening; he wanted to stick up for Jesus. He took out his sword and cut off the ear of a chief priest.

Before the situation got more out of hand, Jesus spoke firmly, "Enough!" He reached up to the man whose ear had been hurt and healed it instantly.