

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Midnight in the Garden of Surrender

**Passage: Luke 22:39-65 (ESV)**

Illustration:

Need: In rapid succession, Jesus takes us from dependent prayer to humble surrender in the face of betrayal, denial, and abuse.

### **I. The Prayer of Agony**

- Following the events of the Upper Room, Jesus leads His disciples to a place they frequented.
- Gethsemane (olive press) - garden across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem at the foot of the Mt of Olives
- As the crucifixion drew near, Jesus was under tremendous stress spiritually, emotionally, and physically.
- No one can know for certain the meaning of "this cup" that Jesus referred to in his prayer but it likely had to do with all the elements of His impending suffering as well as the attacks of the tempter.
- The disciples failed to prepare against temptation but Jesus received the needed strength and comfort.

### **II. The Humble Surrender**

- Judas brought with him a force of potentially 200 men, religious and civil.
- The disciples assumed they were supposed to fight but that was not the God's will.
- Jesus made no attempt to resist as this was the purpose for which He came. (Luke 9:21-22, 44-45; 18:31-35)
- The temple authorities illegally arrested and tried Jesus under the influence of "the power of darkness."

### **III. The Prophetic Denial**

- Peter was in the courtyard between the homes of Annas & Caiaphas while Jesus underwent the first two of six illegal trials.
- In fear Peter, as Jesus had foretold, brazenly denied any connection to His Lord.
- As Jesus was being moved in and out of the houses He and Peter caught gazes as the rooster crowed.
- Peter's guilt and remorse was overwhelming and he ran out weeping "bitterly."

### **IV. The Submitted Savior**

- The mockery and mistreatment of Jesus by his captors revealed here was only the beginning.
- Isaiah 53:7 foretold of the lamb led to slaughter, yet remaining silent, obedient, submitted.

### **V. Application:**

1. The reason prayer is so hard is because it's so essential to our consistent faithfulness.
2. A Christian's rights and freedom must always be surrendered to God's will.
3. Remorse over sin is a healthy and necessary step towards restoration and growth.