

(Matthew 26:36-45; Mark 14:32-41; Luke 22:35-46; John 18:1)

Matthew 26

³⁶Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

⁴⁰Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. ⁴¹"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

⁴²He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

⁴³When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Mark 14

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

³⁵Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

³⁶"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

³⁷Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

³⁹Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. ⁴⁰When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Luke 22

³⁵Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"

"Nothing," they answered.

³⁶He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. ³⁷It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment."

³⁸The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords."

"That is enough," he replied.

³⁹Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴²"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow.

⁴⁶"Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

John 18

¹When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it.

In the Gospel of Luke there is a very striking scripture where Jesus actually advises His disciples to arm themselves with swords!

Jesus has been always a man of peace and does not believe in physical aggressions. But here Luke 22:36 Jesus tells them to go and buy a sword with whatever they have. This scripture has a dual revelation one during the time when Jesus was crucified and the other concerning the time when the Lord will take His Spirit away from man, during the end days.

During both these times man is helpless with out any spiritual protection and like in the Old Testament has to act in the physical. Today since we have the Spirit of the Lord with us we do not reciprocate violence in the physical. If we do that then we are denying that we have the Spirit of the Lord with us.

The location round about the garden of Gethsemane, has great important in the life of every Christian, if one understands the events that happened here right from the book of Genesis to the Gospels.

This garden of Gethsemane is located on to the north-eastern side of Jerusalem near the valley of Kidron. The garden is on one side of the valley and the Mount of Olives on the other side of a road that passes valley of Kidron. The Mount of Olives is one of the highest points in eastern Jerusalem, higher than the Temple mount and therefore had great military importance. It got its name from the grooves of olive trees that grew during the time of Nehemiah. These trees were used by Nehemiah during the celebration of the feast of Tabernacles. This whole location was edged on the eastern side with the wall of Jerusalem city.

The valley of Kidron near the garden of Gethsemane was the location which Jesus crossed to reach the garden, where He sat in prayer before the turn of events that led to His crucifixion. It also was the same location which King David crossed when he ran away from his son, whom he thought was going to kill him.

2 Samuel 15

¹³ A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

¹⁴ Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us and put the city to the sword."

On one hand we have a father (David) who is leaving his kingdom and running away from his rebellious son, who wanted his kingdom and his life. On the other hand we have an obedient Son who is willing to give His life for the sake of the Father and for the Father's Kingdom (people).

On one hand we have a (God chosen) king anointed by God over His people, who ruled but for a short time and on the other hand we have a King appointed by God the Father (chosen according to His desire) to rule over His people for ever and ever. Both had to bare humiliation, one did for his own fault and the other for none of His fault but for the cause of others. But both return with glory, one king already did and the other King is yet to come. The first one's glory lasted for a short time and the other's will last forever.

This was at this place where the people weep when David left Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 15

²³ The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by. The king also crossed the Kidron Valley, and all the people moved on toward the desert.

³⁰ *But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up.*

Ironically this also is the place from which Jesus entered Jerusalem when people greeted Him with palms, which grew near the mount.

Mark 11

¹*As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ²saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'*

⁴*They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,*

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

¹⁰*"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"*

"Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹*Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.*

This place is also considered (*un-confirmed*) the place where the Sermon on the Mount was given in the Gospel according to Matthew and where the prayer 'Our Father' was given to us.

This place is also near the pool of Gihon where King Hezekiah did the amazing feat of canalizing the water through aqueducts.

Leaving these entire events aside this place is very important because it was the place of victory for all of us Christians. You would say that victory was won on the Cross, I do not deny that. When the Lord put this in my heart I too asked the same question and was answered in a beautiful way, which I will share with you. You need to know a little about Indian cricket for this.

When the Lord put in my heart the importance of the moments in the Garden of Gethsemane and that the victory started there, I asked the Lord how? And as I entered my house a cricket match was going on, it was India v/s another country. India was batting with just two to three wickets down and we had our best batsman on the field with two others yet to come. India needed just a few runs to win with many overs to spare. Even though the match was not over all the Indians were rejoicing and bursting crackers. It was a fact that the match was yet to be won but trying to convene the Indians and you would hear, 'with the batsman at the wicket and the others yet to come, it is impossible for India to lose, the game is just a matter of process but the match is won.'

This was the same situation in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was in the Garden of Eden that mankind came in to the bondage of sin due to the action of Adam and Eve and it was in the Garden of Gethsemane that mankind came out of sin due to the surrendering of Jesus. It was in the Garden of Gethsemane that Jesus fully accepted to suffer, die and to be a sacrifice for the sins of mankind by which we received the Holy Spirit.

You would say Jesus already knew about His purpose on earth. Surely He must have known the suffering He would go through for they were written in the scriptures (i.e. Psalm 22).

Psalm 22

² *O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, and am not silent.*

³ *Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the praise of Israel.*

⁴ *In you our fathers put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.*

⁵ *They cried to you and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not disappointed.*

⁶ ***But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by men and despised by the people.***

⁷ *All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads:*

⁸ *"He trusts in the LORD;
let the LORD rescue him.
Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him."*

⁹ *Yet you brought me out of the womb;
you made me trust in you
even at my mother's breast.*

¹⁰ *From birth I was cast upon you;
from my mother's womb you have been my God.*

¹¹ ***Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.***

¹² *Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.*

¹³ *Roaring lions tearing their prey
open their mouths wide against me.*

¹⁴ *I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted away within me.*

¹⁵ *My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.*

¹⁶ ***Dogs have surrounded me;
a band of evil men has encircled me,
they have pierced my hands and my feet.***

¹⁷ *I can count all my bones;
people stare and gloat over me.*

¹⁸ ***They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.***

¹⁹ *But you, O LORD, be not far off;
O my Strength, come quickly to help me.*

²⁰ ***Deliver my life from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.***

²¹ ***Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.***

²² *I will declare your name to my brothers;
in the congregation I will praise you.*

Yes the sufferings that Jesus would go through were written in the scriptures, but they are nothing compared to the suffering He actually went through. It was in the Garden of Gethsemane that Jesus was shown in detail the suffering He would experience. This suffering was so great that Jesus started to be very sorrowful and sweating painfully and profusely as if He was bleeding. He therefore pleaded with His Father if He could avoid this cup of suffering. But when Jesus accepted this cup of suffering the victory was won. The events to take place were just a matter of process but victory was sure. In one garden man lost life and in another, man got back his life.

Coming to the prayer that Jesus said at the garden, part of the prayer is given in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Matthew 26

³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

⁴²He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

⁴⁴So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Mark 14

³⁶"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

³⁹Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

Luke 22

⁴²"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

This prayer was not a long prayer by was with great feelings and was the heart. We usually like to make long prayers and these prayers do not get answered. God does not like long prayers for He listens to your heart not your mouth. But your mouth is a confirmation of your desires which is in your heart.

And the prayer referred to in the Gospel of John also shows us the purpose of Jesus on earth, for He did not come to save everybody.

As you read the chapter 17 of the Gospel of John, Jesus prayed for three intentions for Himself, for the chosen ones and third for the people whom God gave Him.

John 17

¹After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

In the first part where Jesus prays for Himself, He prays for the will of the Father in His life. He pleads with His Father that He be glorified and be made as He was before the start of creation. To understand this you will

need to understand the Trinity; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, their body, the heavens and the purpose of creation. For if the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were in full glory then why was creation made for which the Son's glory was damaged, that it needed restoration? I have written on this (not in complete but what is needed to understand) in my teaching on Creations.

When Jesus said on third day the Temple will be build again it did not mean just the Resurrection, but also the restoration of the glory of the Son.

Another thing you will see in the prayer and in the life of Jesus, He did not overdo the task which God the Father gave Him. Jesus could have lived for a few more years or visited more towns and preached to more people and spread the Word more. Jesus did not run about in all direction, but he was totally guided by the Holy Spirit as He did His work on earth. We too should do the Lord work the way He did on earth. We should be lead by His Spirit, take counsel on every step we take towards doing the job we are assigned. We may land up doing a great show, yet not complete the task we have been assigned.

John 17 [NIV]

⁶*I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.* ⁷*Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.* ⁸*For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.* ⁹*I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.* ¹⁰*All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.* ¹¹*I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name - the name you gave me - so that they may be one as we are one.* ¹²*While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.* ¹³*I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.* ¹⁴*I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.* ¹⁵*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.* ¹⁶*They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.* ¹⁷*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.* ¹⁸*As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.* ¹⁹*For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.*

John 17 [KJV]

⁶*I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.*

⁷*Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.*

⁸*For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.*

⁹*I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.*

¹⁰*And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.*

¹¹*And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*

¹²*While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.*

¹³*And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.*

¹⁴*I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

¹⁵*I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*

¹⁶*They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

¹⁷*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

¹⁸*As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*

¹⁹*And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.*

In the second part Jesus prays for the ones God the Father gave Him and who have obeyed the Word. Most people mistake this prayer as a prayer for the Apostles. This prayer was not for the Apostles but for the chosen ones who overcome the World which included the Apostles (may be all or just some). They are people who were born and are to be born and who God the Father has chosen even before they are born. They are the ones who are part of the first resurrection.

Revelation 20

"I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Of all the chosen ones (which are in thousands) none are lost except for Judas. To these people God the Father and the truth is revealed by the Son through the Father's Word.

At the end in the last section Jesus prays for all who believe in Him. This lot includes all the children of God or in other words, Israel. Israel does not mean the Jews who are born in the country Israel but all the people that believe in Christ (lord and Jesus) they are considered as decedents of Abraham and Jacob. They are the chosen princes of God. They are the one who will be in the second resurrection; they will be resurrected on the Day of Judgments / Day of the Lord and will come before the throne to be judged.

John 17

²⁰"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Prayer is also very important in our lives, because prayer along with spiritual and physical alertness keeps us away from temptations. Temptations are always around and will always look at ways to get to us, by just being alert spiritually and physically we will not be able to avoid them. Temptations are like mosquitoes and as science has found out that, mosquitoes locate us by sensors that detect carbon dioxide which our body (skin) breathes out. Applying lotions controls output of carbon dioxide outtake from our skin and help to some extent, but does not eliminate mosquitoes completely. Similarly just knowing the Word of God and following it will not help us to completely keep temptations away, we also need to pray.

Suffering and blessings in the Bible are both spoken as having the form of liquid. They are either poured in a cup or jar or showered like rain. As you know liquid for example water, when poured spreads through out all areas it gets entry to. Any area that is low, it will first flow into that area until it has no more areas to flow into and will then come to a level. That is how both suffering and blessings behave in our lives. When suffering is

poured in our lives it will first try to hit the very low areas of our spiritual and physical lives and we will immediately see problems in that area. That same way blessing when showered, they too first cover up the low areas of our physical and spiritual lives.

To avoid too many problems in our lives we must bring up the low areas of our physical and spiritual lives. In the same way to allow blessings to flow in the low parts of our lives we must give entry to them. The more we open them or expose them, faster will they fill up. The bringing up or lowering our physical and spiritual lives is done via the heart, so also exposing the low areas for blessing is also done via the heart.