

Sermon Study

Prayer-less

Matthew 26:36-46

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



AUTHOR'S NOTES (summary of key points for this study)

The inner circle of Peter, James and John had heard Jesus' warning to watch and pray, had heard Jesus describe how our prayers should plead for the Father to lead us and deliver us and had heard how they, particularly Peter, would abandon Him. Yet, all three display crucial weakness here that serves as a strong warning to all of us. How ready will we be to support Jesus or welcome His return if we are not watching and praying?

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

1. What was the longest night of your life? What was it that kept you up?

2. What was the most awkward time or place where you fell asleep?

study notes

Go
(your group on mission)

Since Easter is coming, talk about how you can “watch and pray” for those who need to know that Jesus followed His Father’s will and died on the cross for our sins and rose to give us victory over sin and death.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 26:36-46.

2. What insights can we gain about Jesus during His time in Gethsemane?

3. Why do you think Jesus takes only His inner circle of three disciples (Peter, James, and John), not all of his disciples, toward a more secluded place to pray?

4. When else has Jesus favored this smaller group to participate in a significant encounter with Him? If they had recalled that event, how might that have helped them here?

5. See the earlier verses in the chapter. How should Jesus’ words there have prepared them to keep watch now?

6. What did Peter, James, and John already endure that perhaps impacted their fatigue?

7. Looking at what Jesus tells them, what do they know about the weight of this moment? When else has Jesus cautioned them to “watch” and how does that parable illustrate the need for readiness, particularly here? Read Matthew 25:1-13.

8. What are the various emotions that Jesus may have felt finding Peter, James and John asleep not once, not twice but three times?

9. What might be the temptation that Jesus warns them about? Read Matthew 26:31-35.

10. What does Jesus mean by pointing out the willingness of the spirit but the weakness of the body? How is that more meaningful in light of what Jesus will experience?

11. Besides sleep, what else are the Peter, James and John missing here?

12. What has been your Gethsemane, where Jesus called you to keep watch with Him, in Him, through Him and you failed, thus falling prey to temptation?

13. How does keeping watch in prayer help you to face temptation or times of great sorrow and distress?

Give
(your group serving each other)

Discuss with your group what stressful or sorrowful matter in your life you need the inner circle of your small group to keep watch and pray with and for you. Make a covenant with an inner circle to keep watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.