**11/17/24 What Do We Do When Facing Our Garden of Gethsemane?**

**Matthew 26:36-44**

* Jesus was in great anguish over His approaching physical pain, separation from the Father, and death for the sins of the world.
* Jesus’ strength to obey came from His relationship with God the Father, Who is also the source of our strength.
* The sinless Son of God took our sins upon Himself to save us from suffering and separation. **Hebrews 5:7-9; John 17:11, 15-16, 21, 26**

**1. When emotions are high, all kinds of feelings are displayed.**

* Gethsemane was the path that Jesus would follow, to the humiliation of the cross. It was determined by Him because only He could accept it.
* Like Jesus, even as we pray for deliverance from some challenging circumstance, we will also affirm to follow what is clearly God’s will for us.
* In times of suffering people sometimes wish they knew the future, or they wish they could understand the reason for their anguish.

**Matthew 3:36; Romans 12:1-2; Phil. 3:10; Hebrews 5:8; Proverbs 3:5-6**

**2. Everyone is not prepared for the levels of suffering.**

* Jesus only took His inner circle with Him during His hour of distress and agony.
* Jesus wasn’t sorrowful that He had to die, but He was sorrowful because He had to be separated from His Father for a period of time.
* The physical suffering would be torture enough, but the cup of spiritual suffering was a bitter cup Jesus’ human nature did not want to drink.
* Even though the intimacy between Father and Son would be severed, the Trinity would remain intact.

**Matthew 4:1-11; 26:37-39, Ephesians 2:8-9; Luke 22:44**; **John 9:4; Isaiah 51:17**

 **3. Our due diligence in prayer is a must.**

* Jesus told His disciples to keep watch and pray, so that they would not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.
* Jesus not only wanted His disciples to pray for Him, but also for themselves because they, too, would face difficult temptations.
* We must stay alert and always pray and ask God to dress us in His armor daily because the trials and temptations will always come.

**Matthew 26:40-46; Luke 18:1**

**Upcoming Events**

Women’s Day, November 24th, Dr. LaConya McCrae of Union Cathedral, Theme: “Faith to Persevere in Challenging Times,” James 1:2-4, the colors are red and black. Fellowship dinner after service.

Calvary’s Angel Tree, please return all gifts with name tags by December 8th.

2025 Calendar Planning Meeting after service, December 8th.

**Thought for the Week**: Courage is not the absence of fear, but the refusal to give in to fear.