

## ENCOUNTER JESUS #31: John 18:1-27 "ALONE"

### GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE – WHAT DOES THIS MOMENT MEAN? MYSTERY

- SWIMMING IN DEEP WATER – **SOMETHING STANDS OUT TO ME**

Jesus final moment w/disciples in Upper Room. washed their feet, Lord's supper, commanded love, Holy Spirit, prayed faith, sang hymn led them to **THE PLACE**

- **GUESS WHERE JESUS? The place.** Safe place. Place of Refuge. THE GARDEN
  - o **CLUE NAME: G=OIL PRESS.** Place olives gathered. Crushed. Oil extracted

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **LONE, SOLITARY SEED, FALLING, DYING. LIFE**

- "Overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." - Sank to his knees

Hebrews 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, **with loud cries and tears**, to him who was able to save him from death.

His suffering was physical but also soulful. **BORE WEIGHT SUFFERING ALONE**

MP: While the cross conveys the intensity of his physical suffering the garden conveys the intensity of his soul suffering. And how alone he truly was.

### JESUS WAS ALONE – MORE ALONE IN HIS SUFFERING THAN ANY OTHER HUMAN

#### (1) JESUS KNEW HE WOULD BE FORSAKEN BY HIS DISCIPLES

- HE TOLD THEM – his chosen, his friends, leaders, future apostles

Matthew 26:30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "You will all **fall away** because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

- Fall Away: Scandalized, made stumble, offended – IN HIS GREATEST NEED FLD
- He still loved them – compassionate w/weaknesses – **WHO IS LIKE THAT?**

#### (2) FLANKED BY JUDAS' BETRAYAL AND PETER'S DENIAL

Judas Peter battled w/same natural tendencies. **Prideful, brash, extreme, determined**

- One betrayed Jesus with a kiss and One denied Jesus as he followed from a far
- 2 KEY LEADERS BOTH FAILED CHRIST IN HIS MOMENT OF NEED

- o One was sinister and intentional / one was naïve and blind – JC SAID ALL

Matthew 26:33 Peter said, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." <sup>35</sup> Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

HOURS LATER: In the courtyard: I do not know the man! **(IN EARSHOT) - ALONE**

#### (3) FAILED BY JAMES, PETER AND JOHN'S INABILITY TO PRAY

3 closest disciples – closest relationship – **Called to help carry the burden**

- Not **ARROGANTLY** I'll handle myself – **HE DIDN'T WANT SUFFER ALONE**

Personal invitation from JESUS – **WHEN UR IN GREAT NEED (closest friends)**

- o People who feel what you feel, carry burden, lift up heart/arms
  - **THEY WERE WEARY WITH THEIR OWN SORROW**

Burdened with sorrow and disconnected from the despair of the Master - **ALONE**

#### **(4) BURDENED BY THE FATHER'S SILENCE**

Cried out in desperation – not once, twice, 3X only to hear NOTHING in RESPONSE

- **THERE'S NO WAYS TO DESCRIBE - Eternal closeness of the Trinity**

While his body was crucified on the cross, his will was crucified in the Garden. Not my..

#### **(5) IN HIS AGONY HIS UNTOUCHED BODY BLED ON THE GROUND**

He bled b4 beaten court/scourging/crucifixion – **AN INNER ANGUISH AND PAIN**

- **AGONY:** The stress so great sweat was mingled with blood veins burst skin

Because he carried. By himself. The weight of the sin of the world. ALONE

**\*why did jesus have to suffer alone..**

#### **THIS IS THE COVENANT OF REDEMPTION – BETWEEN THE FATHER AND SON**

**STRANGE STORY:** sacrifice heifer, ram, goat, turtledove, pigeon – BUT CUT THEM ½

- Place Against – deep sleep – deep darkness – Burning fire pot / flaming torch
  - o COVENANTS DURING THAT TIME – WEIGHT RESTED ON GOD
  - o In the New Covenant – burning pot/flaming torch – Father and Son

In agreement Father would forgive sin thru power of Son's sacrifice – behalf all believe.

- **Greek mythology Atlas carries the weight of the world shoulders**
- **JESUS ALONE CARRIED WEIGHT FATHER'S PURPOSE – ATONEMENT**

Hebrews 10:12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

While holding the world together by the word of His power, Jesus rescued the world from sin through the power of His blood.

Olive Trees: Ancient. Indestructible. Sacred. Life Giving. Enduring. Generous.

Ancient of days. Indestructible One. Sacred Son. Giver of Life. Eternally Enduring. Full of Grace

**You may not be the greatest Christian – but you have the greatest Savior.**

**When you are at your worst He is at His best.**

**He suffered alone so you would never have to be alone. All forsook him so you would never be forsaken. Eternally united to the FATHER.**

**Matthew 11:28** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.