

Upcoming Events

Plan Congregational Meeting: Financial Report
Mid-course Review: Saturday Meeting 2021
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: TBA

Strength Under Adversity

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

“I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:11-13

August Birthdays

4 Noah Perales 6 Gigi Zamarripa 12 Debbie Hoffman
16 Nick Hoffman 19 Keith Lovelady 25 Pat Limburg

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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Entering and Leaving Our Gethsemane

By Dan Jenkins

Perhaps as we meditate, we should spend more time with Jesus in Gethsemane. On the night of His betrayal, that garden was filled with intense emotions. Do not just read what happened there but take time to feel the emotions: the emotions of the sleeping disciples whom Jesus rebuked; the emotions of Judas as he betrayed the Lord; the emotions of the mob; the emotions of the disciples as they fled. Above all, share in the emotions of Jesus.

They entered Gethsemane, and He left eight apostles and took Peter, James and John with Him to another place. These three men then saw something they had never seen. Their Lord had always seemed so strong and powerful, but now in their presence, “He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed” ([Matt. 26:37](#)). They saw Him in a way they had never seen Him before. They heard Him say, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

He prayed, then He came and found them asleep. He had asked them to watch with Him, but they failed. His soul was even more burdened, and the Bible described how great this burden was. “And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the earth” ([Luke 22:44](#)). He returned to the three disciples and found them asleep. This time he did not wake them to share His grief and agony with them. He simply returned for the third time and prayed, “Not My will but Your will be done.”

There are at least two ways to look at this simple prayer. One could look at it as though the burden was so great, He was just ready to quit—the fight was not worth it. He was like a frustrated wife or teen who looks at the “master” and throws up their hands and says, “Whatever, I quit. You win.”

However, this is not where Jesus was when He prayed. It is not the prayer of one who had hopelessly fought a losing fight, nor one who had no hope and was driven by circumstances into surrender. It was a prayer of perfect trust. He was talking to His Father He had known eternally. It was a prayer from the heart of One who was loved to a God who is love. He trusted in God and this changed Him.

Notice how He then changed. The mob arrived; the arrest; the mockery of several trials. He entered Gethsemane in gloom and left this garden with calm assurance. He was a victim, but He understood He was a victorious victim. What made that difference? What changed a troubled soul in great agony to one of calm assurance? It is simple. He talked to the Father. When we are in despair and we are almost ready to quit, talk to the Father, and His peace will change us and give us the victory.

What a Friend!

By Lance Cordle

In the mid-1800’s, a young Irishman named Joseph Scriven was engaged to be married to a young lady. On the day before the wedding, he rode out to meet his fiancé at a river. Upon arriving, he was devastated to learn that her horse had been startled and thrown her into the water, where she drowned. He said later, “The bottom of my world seemed to disappear.” He turned to God and leaned upon him for strength.

He moved to Port Hope, Ontario, Canada. In his sorrow, he chose to remain alone and tutor children. He devoted his life to doing

good deeds for other people. In fact, he became known as the Good Samaritan of Port Hope. A few years later, however, he again found love and was engaged to be married. Within weeks of the wedding, his new love, Eliza, contracted pneumonia and died.

A few months later, in sending a message to his mother, who was ill at the time, Joseph wrote a poem in which he poured out his heart about the need to lean upon God in times of trouble. He gave it the title, *Pray Without Ceasing*. The poem was at first published anonymously and only later did he admit that it was he who had written it. He died several years later, apparently having deliriously wandered into a body of water during the night and drowned.

His words, however, have lived on and have been sung and loved for years. They are found in most songbooks of today. Many who have sung them need little prompting to melodiously declare, “What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!” (Sources: You Tube, The story behind the hymn, What a Friend We Have in Jesus;” Wikipedia, “Joseph Scriven.”

Immediately following the words, “*Greater Love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends,*” Jesus also said “*You are my friends if you do what I command you*” (John 15:13, 14 ESV). Each Christian has the privilege of being the friend of Jesus.

Though we may not have walked with Him while He was on earth, we can walk with Him today. We can take confidence in knowing that He has also said, “*And, behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age*” (Matthew 28:20) Let us trust the Lord throughout our lives and let us lean upon his promise— “*I will never leave you nor forsake you*” (Hebrews 13:5).