

Attention!

Business Meeting: Today at 2:30 p.m.

Am I a Doer of the Word?

“For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who has looked intently at the perfect law, the law of freedom, and has continued in it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an active doer, this person will be blessed in what he does.” James 1:23-25

November Birthdays

10 Daniel Brown

November Anniversaries

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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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”* (Matthew 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 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.

Mortified Moments

By Bruce Evans



The infamous “perp walk”, most likely we have all seen it played out on the nightly news. Someone is taken into custody and is seeking to hide their face in any way possible from the glaring lights of cameras. Hoping against hope to hide their identity, as the embarrassment factor of their actions and consequences are now brought to the fore front. While maybe not to the degree as someone on the news doing the “perp walk”, we at times have had a moment or two when we have been mortified, longing for a way to conceal self in order to slip away.

With that thought in mind, imagine how the woman who was brought by scribes and Pharisees before Jesus upon having her immorality exposed in a most public fashion. There was a crowd gathered, and the following was said to Jesus, “*Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do you say?*” (John 8:4-5) The Pharisees and scribes used this woman as a tool in order to trap Jesus. They really didn’t care about her sensitivities or even her life.

Notice as the account unfolds, Jesus doesn’t answer their specific question. They pressed Him harder for an answer, to which He stated, “*He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her.*” (John 8:7) Beginning with the older ones in the crowd, they began to leave. Ultimately the woman was left alone with Jesus, when He said to her, “*Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?*” (John 8:10) Take note of what is seen in verse eleven. “*And she said, ‘No one, Lord’. And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go your way. From now on sin no more.’*” The ultimate of compassion, grace and mercy is clearly in evidence.

“*Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall*” (1Corinthians 10:12). Couple this thought with what is seen in 1 John chapter one, verses eight through ten. “*If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*” Remember John is writing to those who have put on Christ in baptism, hence children of God. Now embrace what is being set forth. Even in those moments when we are mortified by our failure, we can cry out for mercy and forgiveness. “*We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*” (1 John 2:1).

The author of Hebrews writes, “*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of needs*” (4:15-16). Factor in as well that He serves as our Mediator. “*For there is one God, and mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*” (1Timothy 2:5 see also Hebrews 8:5, 9:15).

Can you imagine how mortified Paul was when he came to realize that he had been so wrong about Jesus? His zeal fueled his being a violent aggressor against the cause of Christ. Take some time to read over what Paul wrote in his first letter to Timothy, especially in the first chapter and verses twelve through sixteen. Pay attention to the use of the words, mercy and grace. “*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*” (Titus 3:5). Amazing grace and mercy.