

“Father, Not as I Will”:
Jesus & Surrendering to a Sovereign God in Prayer
Sermon Notes

➤ **“Prayer is the walkie-talkie of the church on the battlefield of the world in the service of the Word.”**

– John Piper

In today's reading, Jesus demonstrates three principles when we cry out to the Father requesting His urgent intervention on our personal behalf.

1. Battle prayers should be _____. They are appropriate when we are under spiritual attack.

2. Battle prayers should be _____. They are requests, not demands.

3. Battle prayers should be _____, though they may be repeated.

Next Sunday: John 17:1-26 “Father, the Hour Has Come”
Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of July 11th-17th

Context

Our passage this week is Matt 26:36-46 and tells us about Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

1. Read the preceding passage: Matt 26:30-35. Compare Peter's claim in this passage with his performance in today's passage. Does his response to the Lord in Gethsemane have anything to do with his actions in Matt 26:69-75?
2. Read the passage that follows, Matt 26:47-56, that describes the arrest and betrayal of Jesus. Compare Peter's response at Christ's arrest with his response in the garden. What has changed? Compare verse 53 with verse 39. What has changed?
3. This gospel was written by Matthew. What do we know about Matthew? How does his account differ from Mark's (Mk 14:32-42)? From Luke's (Lk 22:39-46)? From John's (Jn 18:1)? What does Matthew emphasize? What does he omit? How did Matthew know what happened in the garden?

Observation

1. In this passage Jesus prays three times. Do you think there is any relationship with Peter's threefold denial? The risen Christ's threefold inquiry about Peter's love (Jn 21:15-19)? Paul's threefold plea for respite from the thorn in his side (2 Cor 12:7-10)?
2. In this passage, we learn that the Lord is grieved and distressed (v 37) and deeply grieved (v 38). What is the source of this grief? Does it persist (See Heb. 12:2)?

Meaning

1. How would you summarize Matthew's main point in this passage in one sentence?
2. Contrast the Lord's prayer here with the prayer that he has taught the disciples in Matt 6:5-15. What does he include? What does he omit? Is there anything unique about our Lord's prayer in the garden?

Application

1. Think about a time in the past when you have been struggling with suffering. Did you pray? What did you ask for? What did your prayer reveal about the deepest desires of your heart? Was your heart's desire aligned with the glory of God?