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~ **The Garden of Grief** ~

You can learn much more about this story by doing these three things:

1. Read Matthew 26:36-56 and John 18:1-24.
2. Discover key cultural and historical insights.
3. Answer the reflective questions.

1. Read the text of the story.

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Matthew 26:36-56 NASB	Matthew 26:36-56 NLT
<p>³⁶ Then Jesus *came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and *said to His disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. ³⁸ Then He *said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.”</p> <p>³⁹ And He went a little beyond <i>them</i>, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” ⁴⁰ And He *came to the disciples and *found them sleeping, and *said to Peter, “So, you <i>men</i> could not keep watch with Me for one hour? ⁴¹ Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”</p> <p>⁴² He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.” ⁴³ Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. ⁴⁵ Then He *came to the disciples and *said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!”</p> <p>⁴⁷ While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, <i>who came</i> from the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him.” ⁴⁹ Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. ⁵⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Friend, <i>do</i> what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.</p> <p>⁵¹ And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest</p>	<p>³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. ³⁸ He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”</p> <p>³⁹ He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”</p> <p>⁴⁰ Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? ⁴¹ Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”</p> <p>⁴² Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open.</p> <p>⁴⁴ So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”</p> <p>⁴⁷ And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸ The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: “You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss.” ⁴⁹ So Judas came straight to Jesus. “Greetings, Rabbi!” he exclaimed and gave him the kiss.</p> <p>⁵⁰ Jesus said, “My friend, go ahead and do what you have</p>

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<p>and cut off his ear.⁵² Then Jesus *said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?⁵⁴ How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, <i>which say</i> that it must happen this way?”</p> <p>⁵⁵ At that time Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as <i>you would</i> against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me.⁵⁶ But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets.” Then all the disciples left Him and fled.</p>	<p>come for.”</p> <p>Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him.⁵¹ But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest’s slave, slashing off his ear.</p> <p>⁵² “Put away your sword,” Jesus told him. “Those who use the sword will die by the sword.⁵³ Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly?⁵⁴ But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?”</p> <p>⁵⁵ Then Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day.⁵⁶ But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures.” At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled.</p>
<p>John 18:1-14, 19-24 NASB</p>	<p>John 18:1-14, 19-24 NLT</p>
<p>18 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples.² Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples.³ Judas then, having received the <i>Roman</i> cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, *came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.⁴ So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and *said to them, “Whom do you seek?”⁵ They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He *said to them, “I am <i>He</i>.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.⁶ So when He said to them, “I am <i>He</i>,” they drew back and fell to the ground.⁷ Therefore He again asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.”⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am <i>He</i>; so if you seek Me, let these go their way,”⁹ to fulfill the word which He spoke, “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.”¹⁰ Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave’s name was Malchus.¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?”</p> <p>¹² So the <i>Roman</i> cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him,¹³ and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.¹⁴ Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.</p> <p>¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching.²⁰ Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret.²¹ Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I</p>	<p>After saying these things, Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples and entered a grove of olive trees.² Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples.³ The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove.</p> <p>⁴ Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. “Who are you looking for?” he asked.</p> <p>⁵ “Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied.</p> <p>“I AM he,” Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.)⁶ As Jesus said “I AM he,” they all drew back and fell to the ground!⁷ Once more he asked them, “Who are you looking for?”</p> <p>And again they replied, “Jesus the Nazarene.”</p> <p>⁸ “I told you that I AM he,” Jesus said. “And since I am the one you want, let these others go.”⁹ He did this to fulfill his own statement: “I did not lose a single one of those you have given me.”</p> <p>¹⁰ Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s slave.¹¹ But Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given me?”</p> <p>¹² So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up.¹³ First they took him to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time.¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish</p>

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<p>said.”²² When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, “Is that the way You answer the high priest?”²³ Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?”²⁴ So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.</p>	<p>leaders, “It’s better that one man should die for the people.”¹⁹ Inside, the high priest began asking Jesus about his followers and what he had been teaching them.²⁰ Jesus replied, “Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret.²¹ Why are you asking me this question? Ask those who heard me. They know what I said.”²² Then one of the Temple guards standing nearby slapped Jesus across the face. “Is that the way to answer the high priest?” he demanded.²³ Jesus replied, “If I said anything wrong, you must prove it. But if I’m speaking the truth, why are you beating me?”²⁴ Then Annas bound Jesus and sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest.</p>
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2. Discover key cultural and historical insights

These insights from Bruce Malina, A Social Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels, 131-133 and 213.

1. In Israelite lore, the Targum Neofiti Exodus 12:42 said that the Messiah would come from God at midnight of Passover and enter Jerusalem through the east gate and go directly into the Temple. This is exactly the path Jesus took when he was arrested.
2. The fact that they were well armed shows they expected a fight.
3. The robbers (Greek = *lestai*) were not regular robbers but social bandits and revolutionaries. Also, the thought is that the *lestai* hung out in caves and other remote places but Jesus was in the open teaching in synagogues and in the temple.
4. The chief priest, the high priest, and the council of elders would lose power if Jesus’ had his way.
5. Jesus said the “hour” had come. The hour represents a period during which something essentially significant to a person’s existence is to take place.

On Christ’s sweating and blood being in his sweat. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hematidrosis>

1. Blood usually oozes from the forehead, other skin surfaces, nails, and umbilicus. In addition, oozing from mucocutaneous surfaces causing nose bleeds, blood stained tears, and vicarious menstruation are common. The episodes may be preceded by intense headache and abdominal pain and are usually self limiting. In some condition, the secreted fluid is more dilute and appears to be blood tinged, while others may have darker bright red secretions resembling frank blood.
2. Investigation such as platelets count, platelet aggregation test, coagulation profile and skin biopsy reveal no abnormalities and direct light microscopy of fluid demonstrate presence of

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normal red blood cells. Investigations also failed to show any vasculitis or skin appendages (i.e. sweat glands, sebaceous glands and hair follicles) abnormalities.

3. It may occur when a person is suffering extreme levels of stress, for example, facing his or her own death. Several historical references have been described; notably by Vinci describing a soldier who sweated blood before battle, men unexpectedly given a death sentence, as well as descriptions reported in the Bible, that Jesus experienced hematidrosis when he was praying in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43-44).

Answer these reflective questions.

Jesus wanted Peter, James, and John to stay close beside him. What does this teach us about Jesus' human nature?

Jesus asked the Father if there was any other way besides his drinking the cup. What did the cup represent? Why did Jesus not want to drink it?

What, ultimately, caused Jesus to pray, "Not as I will but as you will, Father"? Because Jesus was willing to drink the cup, does that in any way affect your attitude towards Jesus and your love for him?

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As Jesus struggle in prayer, the disciples were sleeping. What lesson can we learn from this? What does this say about our need for grace in following Jesus?

Jesus told the disciples to watch and pray lest they enter into temptation. What temptations were they about to face? How can watching and praying help us in times of temptation?

How do you think Jesus felt when Judas betrayed him with a kiss?

Jesus said “all who take up the sword will die by the sword.” What does this mean for God’s people today? What did Jesus mean in this statement?

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In 17:15 Jesus prayed that God would not take us out of the world but that he would protect us from the evil one. Why did he choose not to take his people out of the world? How does God protect us from the evil one?

In 17:20-23 Jesus prayed for unity among his people. Do you believe this can be accomplished? How have you worked for unity among God's people?
