



Today we bring this series of talks to a powerful and dramatic conclusion. We are going to join Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane ("the oil press") as he teaches us another lesson in how to pray. The Gethsemane prayer is shocking, disturbing, overwhelming and at the same time life-giving. In this prayer, Jesus shows us the crucible of prayer in which our will is heated to the melting point and molded to conform to God's will. (Matthew 26:36-46)

JESUS TAUGHT US HOW TO CRY OUT IN PRAYER.

This was a time of great agony and loneliness for Jesus.

Matthew 26:38, My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. (NIV)

Matthew 26:40, He returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked. (NIV)

Luke 22:44, Being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. (NIV)

Jesus cried out to God in desperation and honesty.

Matthew 26:39, He fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (NIV)

Romans 8:14, You received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." (NIV)

JESUS TAUGHT US HOW TO SUBMIT IN PRAYER.

There is a subtle shift between the first and second season of Jesus' prayer.

Matthew 26:42, He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." (NIV)

It is here the first ring of victory can be heard.

JESUS TAUGHT US HOW TO PERSIST IN PRAYER.

Matthew 26:43-44, When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Jesus taught us to pray until prayer changes us...until we align our agenda with his agenda...until our petition matches his willingness.

JESUS TAUGHT US THAT THE FRUIT OF PRAYER IS OBEDIENCE.

From his third season of prayer, a resolve and a steadfastness comes over Jesus.

Matthew 26:45-46, Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" (NIV)

John 18:11, Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" (NIV)

Jesus taught us that prayer is not trying to get God to act differently.

It is not "getting something from God."

It is "getting to God."

It is being "empowered by God."