

3 Gethsemane and denial

As we consider the events that followed the meal in the upper room, we find that the four Gospel accounts differ quite a bit from each other. This will be because each writer picks from what they have heard about the event the points that they want to emphasise.

Matthew and Mark identify the place of arrest as Gethsemane, Luke just mentions the Mount of Olives and John has it in a garden. All view it from a different angle but none contradicts the others.

There are differences in what is recorded to have happened in the garden. John omits Jesus' prayer. (He has just recorded the High Priestly prayer of Jesus in the upper room.)

Matthew and Mark go into much greater detail. (Matthew was there and Mark is probably recalling Peter's memory of events.)

Luke's account is briefer than the others.

Luke 22:39-46

- What encouragement does Jesus give as book-ends to this section? vss 40, 46
- What do you think 'temptation' means in this context?
- At what other important times in his ministry did Luke record Jesus praying? 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:16, 28 and 11:1 will help.
- What can this teach us about the need for prayer in our lives?
- What do we learn about Jesus' attitude in prayer? vss. 41, 44
- What do we learn from the content of his prayer?

There is some debate as to whether vss. 43-44 were in the original.

- What do these verses add to our knowledge? cf Matthew 4:11
- What reason does Luke give for the disciples' failure to stay awake? vs 45
- What differences can you think of between Luke's account and Matthew and Mark's accounts? Matt 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42
- What difference do these make?

Luke 22:47-53

The quiet of the garden is destroyed by a large group of people arriving.

- In what two ways does Luke describe this group? vss.47, 52
- What would appear to be Luke's attitude towards Judas?
- What is the irony of Judas' action?
- How did the other disciples react?
- What was unusual about the way Jesus reacted?
- How does vs 51 relate to vs 38?
- How does Jesus describe the manner of his arrest?

Luke 22:54-62

- What does Luke tell us about the 10 other disciples? (cf Mark 14:50)
- What does he tell us about Peter?
- What were the accusations made against Peter around the fire?
- How did he respond?
- How does this compare with Peter's claim in vs 33?
- What do you think was going through Peter's mind?
- Can you feel the pathos of the first part of vs. 61? What do you think was in that look?
- How different are we from Peter?