

# Willing

**May 2, 2021: Luke 22:41-53**

Jesus knew what time it was in his life. In the garden as he prayed alone, he knew it was time to give up the fight so that he might give up his body and his spirit to save our souls. The disciples didn't seem to have their spiritual "watches" set on the same time. It's arguable whether they ever appreciated what time it was in Jesus' life while Jesus was still among them.

Jesus, and Jesus alone, knew what time it was in his life. The sheer agony of that awakening caused him to pray so deeply, Luke records, that an angel was sent to him to minister to him.

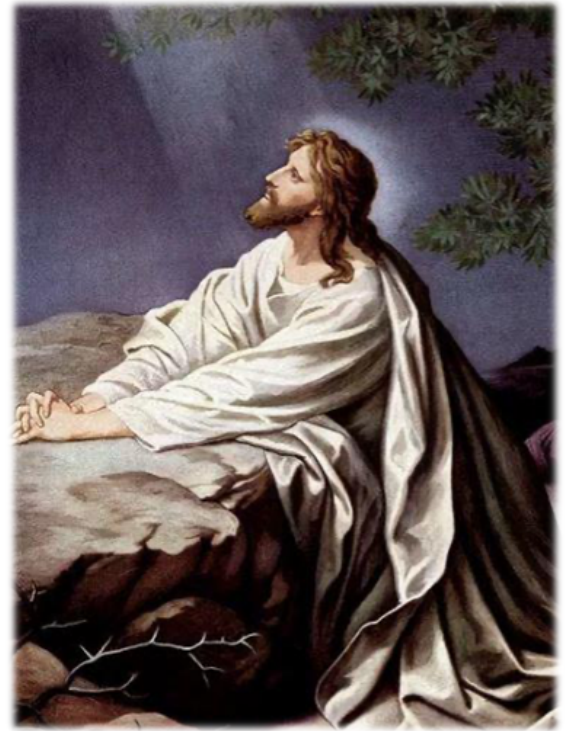
It was then that his captors moved in to finish their work of arresting Jesus. Jesus says words to his captors that rattle all of creation when we listen closely. *"This is your hour—when darkness reigns."* How tragic it would be that, when we arrive at our time, to find it to be a time "when darkness reigns."

Sometimes these days, it almost seems as though darkness reigns. Pastors and others have wondered aloud what it will be like to return to "normal" in church. What is that normal? What will it look like? Will people return after the pandemic? Pray that the people do return to church.

It's hard to know who to trust. It's difficult to know the future course of our nation. Our best choice in this moment is to do as Jesus did. To withdraw to a private place and to pray earnestly so that, we don't miss the time God has appointed for us. [excerpts from Glen Schmucker]

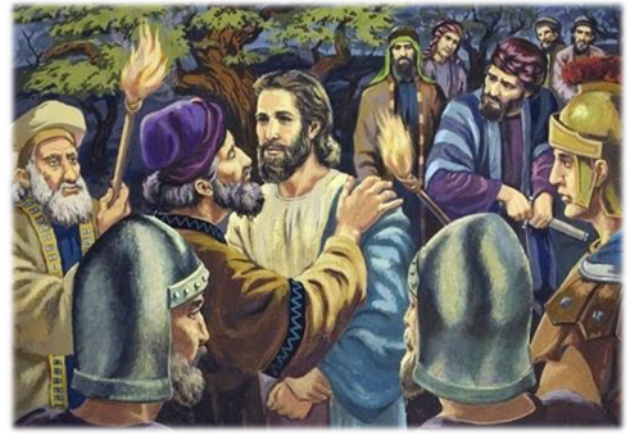
## **In Prayer** (Luke 22:41-46)

- After leaving the Passover meal (Last Supper) in Jerusalem, Jesus and the eleven disciples walked to the Mount of Olives, specifically, the Garden of Gethsemane that sits at its base.
- Jesus separated a **"stone's throw"** from the disciples **"and kneeled down and prayed"**.
  - Mark 14:33-35 tells us Peter, James, and John went farther into the garden near Jesus.
  - Kneeling was a position of submission to the Father. Standing for prayer was normal.
- **"If thou be willing, remove this cup from me, nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."**
  - The intensity of this prayer cannot be overstated. It shows complete submission to God.
  - The "cup" describes an experience – good or bad. In this case, it is used with a twofold meaning: 1) the physical suffering Jesus would experience being crucified and 2) most importantly, the cup represented Jesus taking on the sins of the world as the sacrificial lamb.
- Jesus prayed so intensely; an angel came to comfort Him.
- **"When He rose up from prayer"** indicates Jesus was finished, He had the Father's answer and embraced it.
- **"coming to His disciples, He found them sleeping"**
  - Exhausted by grief and sorrow for Jesus, the disciples were unable to keep praying and fell asleep.
- Jesus encouraged them to pray to avoid temptation (v 40).
  - **Why do we sometimes struggle to follow God's will?**



### In Betrayal (Luke 22:47-50)

- **“while He yet spake, behold a multitude ... drew near”**
  - Judas, one of the twelve disciples, lead the mob.
  - The group - chief priests, elders, temple guards (v 52)
- Judas chose the place and timing to betray Jesus.
  - Removed from the crowds of supporters, Jesus could be arrested with a minimum of difficulty.
- **“Judas drew near unto Jesus to kiss him”.** Friends often greeted each other with a kiss on the cheek.
  - Judas’ action identified Jesus to the soldiers as the one they were to arrest.
    - Note Zechariah 13:6-8 prophesied the Messiah would be betrayed by a friend.
- **“Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?”**
  - Jesus understood exactly what was happening and he confronted Judas.
  - Not only was Judas betraying a friend, he was betraying the Messiah, the Anointed One.
- The disciples aroused from their sleep and now filled with adrenaline asked Jesus **“shall we smite with the sword?”** Not really asking for permission but for the command to fight.
- Peter didn’t wait to hear Jesus’ answer about resisting the mob.
  - John’s gospel reveals it was Peter who cut off the servant’s ear. Likely Peter swung his sword at the man’s head and when the man ducked to avoid the blow, Peter hit his ear.
- **Do you wait to hear Jesus’ answer about how to react or do you react as the world does?**
- **Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? by an enemy? How does Jesus’ example guide us?**



### In Action (Luke 22:52-53)

- The scene could have become disastrous after Peter cut off the high priest’s servant ear.
  - The entire group of disciples could have been attacked and slain.
- Jesus took control. **“Suffer ye thus far”** (KJV) or **“No more of this!”** (NIV).
  - Matthew 26: 52-54: <sup>52</sup> “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”
- Then Jesus took action. He stepped forward **“touched his ear, and healed him.”**
  - This dramatic miracle halted further action as everyone would have been amazed.
- Jesus now addresses the mob of religious leaders and guards.
  - They came out as against a thief (or criminal) with swords and clubs. **“Yet, when I was with you in the temple daily, there were no hands stretched out against me.”**
- At this point Jesus yielded Himself into their hands because He accepted the Father’s purpose.
  - **“This is your hour, and the power of darkness.”** It would appear that Satan was asserting his power, but Satan has no authority over Jesus Christ. This was Jesus willing surrender.
- We may think the enemy is winning at times. If we yield to emotions, we could become discouraged and defeated. Remember, *God works for good of those who love Him.* (Rom. 8:28)
- **Are you willing to embrace God’s will?**

### Biblical Truth:

***Jesus willingly submitted to the Father’s redemptive plan.***

*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5*



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your hour  
and the  
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Luke 22:53