

SLEEPING, WHEN WE SHOULD BE PRAYING

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Matt 26:36-45 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

When Jesus got to the Garden of Gethsemane, he left most of the disciples in a certain place, and took with him Peter, James and John to help him pray. These three were the closest to Jesus. They were the inner circle. They were His most trusted disciples.

But on this night, while Jesus prayed, Peter, James and John slept. While Jesus was crying in agony, his three closest friends were snoring. While Jesus was agonizing over drinking the cup, they were off in La La land.

It is easy to criticize these disciples for their lack of sensitivity to Jesus in His time of need, but how often could the same be said of us?

Has He asked you to pray and you too were more interested in sleeping? Have you spent time reading novels when you should have been reading His Word? Have you ignored His prompting to be a witness and tell somebody about Him and instead justified why you didn't share the Gospel?

Just as Jesus needed Peter, James and John, He needs me and He needs you. He has given us the privilege to pray with Him. He has given us the privilege of knowing Him and sharing Him with others who have yet to meet Him.

After Jesus woke them up and the guards came and arrested Jesus, we find Peter in the court yard, denying the Lord three times.

I wonder if Peter would have denied Jesus if he would have been praying instead of sleeping?

God help us not to be sleeping when we should be praying.