



## JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

*Have you ever prayed to God? Yes? No? For my part, I often pray and especially when I am going through difficult times. Do you think we could count the people who prayed today? Of course not! This is million and million of people who pray God every day. And Jesus, when He was on earth, do you think He was praying? Yes, He used to pray very often. Today we will find Him after the Passover meal. It was one of the most difficult moment of his life. Let's see together what He is going to do. You can read this story in the Book of Matthew, chapter 26, verse 36 to verse 56. Listen carefully and then answer my question: What does Jesus do to have the strength to obey God?*



The Passover meal was over. Jesus and his disciples left the house. It was late. They could have gone rest. But no! They went to a garden planted with olive trees, the garden of



Gethsemane. Everything is silent. You could only hear the sound of their footsteps on the path. Once arrived, Jesus said:

- Sit here. I will go away to pray. Pierre, Jacques and Jean, come with me!

The disciples were sad and tired. There was a special atmosphere. They thought about all the words that Jesus had just told them. But what did

He mean? And Judas, what happened to him? They felt something serious had occurred but they were sleepy. They fell asleep.

Jesus took a few steps with Peter, James and John and said to them:

- My soul is sad, I will die soon. Stay close to me. Be watchful and pray with me. He was in great anguish. He walked away and fell to his knees with his face to the ground. He prayed with all his might.

- My Father, if possible, remove from me this cup of suffering that awaits me.

However, I want to do what you want and not what I want.

He was crushed with pain. He returned to his disciples. They fell asleep.

- Pierre, you are sleeping! You have not been able to pray for one hour with me! If you don't pray, you will be weak. In times of troubles, when you will be tempted, you will not have the strength to resist.



He walked away again and prayed.

- If it is possible, Father, take this cup away from me, so that I do not drink it. But you know I want to do what you want and not what I want.

He was exhausted. God sent Him an angel who comforted him and gave him strength.

He then returned to his disciples. Are they praying?

No! They could not help falling asleep.

For the third time, Jesus made the same prayer.

- Father, if possible, remove this cup from me. However, not what I want but what you want!

He gained strength again. He decided to go all the way through despite the coming suffering. He knew that on the cross He would be bearing the weight of the sins that all men have committed. He was going to be punished instead of us. He was going to be separated from God. His relationship with was going to be cut off. This was the worst of all.



He went back again to the disciples.

- You are sleeping and resting, but now is not the time. My enemies will come get me and make me prisoner. Come on, get up and let's go! Whoever will betray me is very near!

Indeed, we could, footsteps and men talking. A crowd, men with swords and sticks was approaching. By the light of torches and lanterns,

the disciples saw the imposing shadow of the soldiers and the guards and before them, a man who was leading them.

- But, it's Judas! They said amazingly.

Jesus walked up to them and asked:

- Who are you looking for?

- Jesus of Nazareth! said the soldiers.

- It's me!

They all retreated and fell backwards. Jesus asked again:

- Who are you looking for?

- Jesus of Nazareth!

- I told you it was me, so let my disciples go and don't hurt them!

Judas had told the soldiers: "Do not make any mistake! You will arrest the one I will give a kiss to."

He came closer to Jesus and said:

- Good evening, Master!

- Judas! You are betraying me with a kiss!



The soldiers grabbed Jesus and tied his hands. Peter was furious. He took his sword. Suddenly, he hit a servant and cut his right ear.

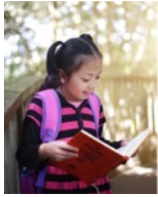
- Peter, stop! Put away your sword! If I want to be released, I just have to ask my Father and He will send an army of angels to defend me. But I'm ready, I'll give my life for the salvation of men.

He touched the ear of the servant and healed him.



This frightened the disciples who fled away. They left Jesus all alone with his enemies. Yet, they loved the Lord and they were so sure they would never give him up! But they have been very weak.

## 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!



Are you ready to answer our question: "What did Jesus do to have strength to obey God" He did 3 things.

- First: He prayed. Yes! He even prayed several times. He insisted.

- Secondly: He asked his friends to pray with Him and for Him.

- Have you found the third thing he did? He trusted God to be strengthened enough to obey Him.

Maybe one day you will be in a difficult situation. You would like to obey God but you don't have the strength to resist. So, remember this story. Do the same as Jesus did. Pray God with all your heart, talk about your difficulty to your parents or to your friends and ask them to help you and to pray with you and for you and believe that your Father, who is in heaven and who loves you will help you, will give you the strength you need.

## 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!



We have many resources within ourselves, but when we are helpless, when you are suffering because of all the life challenges, when the temptation is too big, will we have the strength to resist? Let's do as Jesus said. Let us always pray. Let's ask for help and for prayer from our friends, and let us keep faith in our God. Let's be careful not to miss our children's difficulties so that we can help them in the same vision.