

Garden of Gethsemane
Struggles in Faith
(Luke 22:39-53)

The Garden of Gethsemane - *The Place of the Olive Press*

Just as it was in (Gen. 3) when sin entered the garden...

- So too... it is in a garden where Jesus prepared to take away sin!

READ: (Luke 22:39-54)

Jesus' prayer in this garden...

- Is one of the few events recorded in all four gospels:
 - (Matt 26:36-56) & (Mark 14:32-52)
 - (Luke 22:40-53) & (John 18:1-11)

AND AS WE CONSIDER GETHSEMANE TODAY...

- Let me give you some texture here.

John MacArthur in his book *Experiencing the Passion...*

“The historical records of Jesus’ time, indicate that as many as a quarter-million lambs were slain in a typical Passover season, requiring hundreds of priests to carry out the task.”

There would be a lot of blood from 250,000 lambs...

- Along with the water used in the ritual cleansings.

Where does all that liquid go?

It would drain from (up there) the altar area

- And flow down here into the Kidron Valley.

SO...

- When Jesus walked through the Kidron Valley...
 - To come here to the garden...
 - I'm sure He couldn't help but think about the symbolism...
 - That He would shed His blood for the sin of man.

NOW... *Gethsemane*, means “olive press.”

- Remember what we saw in Nazareth Village – the olive press.

Garden of Gethsemane
Struggles in Faith
(Luke 22:39-53)

THINK ABOUT HOW JESUS WAS PRESSED HERE...

- As He prepared to take away the sin of the world.
 - **Here...** He was squeezed AND sweat great drops of blood.

Lee Strobel in his book *The Case for Christ...*

- Describes the **He-ma-ti-dro-sis** process...
 - As broken blood vessels leak into the sweat glands...
 - And the human body under intense stress spills out blood.

YOU'RE STANDING IN THAT PLACE WHERE THIS HAPPENED!

CONSIDER THREE EVENTS FROM GETHSEMANE:

- 1) In prayer Jesus began to experience the crushing weight of sin – right here.
- 2) Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss – right here.
- 3) Jesus was arrested by the Temple Guards – right here.

HERE'S THE TAKE AWAY...

“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” (2 Cor. 5:21) NLT

The gospel message!!!

- The Good News that was accomplished for us 2,000 years ago.

AND... **THE REASON WE VISIT THIS PLACE...**

- Is to keep our life centered on eternal things!
- We remember what Christ has done for us...
 - And we proclaim the message until He comes again for us!

YOU GUYS...

- Are eyewitnesses of this place where Jesus prayed & bleed.
 - And you're to share it with others!

BUT FOR NOW...

- Let's take the next 10-minutes to get some alone time...
 - And thank Jesus personally for what He's done.