

**DAILY READINGS**

Sunday	Luke 22:39-53
Monday	Matthew 26:36-46; Psalm 51:9-19; Proverbs 8:31-33
Tuesday	Matthew 26:47-56; Psalm 52:1-3; Proverbs 8:34-36
Wednesday	Mark 14:32-42; Psalm 52:4-9; Proverbs 9:1-3
Thursday	Mark 14:43-52; Psalm 53; Proverbs 9:4-6
Friday	John 18:1-12; Psalm 54; Proverbs 9:7-9
Saturday	Luke 22:54-65; Psalm 55:1-6; Proverbs 9:10-12

**DEVOTIONAL: READ LUKE 22:39-53**

All four writers of the Gospels go into great detail recounting the last moments Jesus spent with His disciples before His death. His last example, His last message, His last teaching. He told His disciples to pray. He told them twice to stay awake and pray so that they would not fall into temptation. Then Jesus went by Himself to pray. When time was growing short, and the enemy seemed to be closing in, Jesus took time to be with the Father.

Prayer is bigger than the start of a meal or the close of a ceremony; it is our lifeblood. It does more than help; it actually changes things.

Jesus knew what was coming for Him. He knew He was about to be betrayed by one of His closest friends. He knew that He would be arrested and taken to His death, even though He was without sin. Yet, Jesus prayed selflessly for

the will of the Father to be done, and He was strengthened. He was able to show unbelievable compassion, even toward those who came to capture Him. As He heals the ear of one of His captors, we catch a glimpse of what He meant when He commanded His followers to love their enemy (Matthew 5:44). Jesus was perfectly obedient to every command the Father gave Him on the path to giving up His life in love for all humanity.

Jesus bore our penalty as He went to die and take on the sins of the world. He began it all by praying for the will of the Father to be done. May we listen to Jesus' command to His disciples and stay vigilant, praying that we may not enter into temptation! May we follow Jesus' example and passionately seek God's will in all things, especially when it is difficult. May our prayer life lead us to love as Jesus loves.

## REFLECTION

How have you viewed prayer in your life? Do you think that it matters? How do you picture God when you pray to Him?

How are you seeking God and His will in your life? What adjustments do you need to make to follow His will? Pray that He would lead you today and that He would strengthen you to follow His will.

How can you be more intentional and vigilant in your prayer life? What practical steps can you take this week to see that happen?

## DISCUSSION

How can I pray for you this week?

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You surrendered to Your Father's will and bore my sins on the cross. Entirely blameless and holy, You willingly took on the weight of my guilt and shame. You loved humanity to the very end, Your last breath was the ultimate expression of Your steadfast love toward all that call upon Your Name.

Father, not my will but Yours be done. Give me the wisdom and strength to live by Your will at all times, especially when it is difficult. Help me to know when I am trying to live contrary to what You want for me. Keep me from temptation and be glorified through my life.

Spirit, teach me how to pray. Prompt my spirit and my mind often of the ways You want to work in my life and in the lives of those around me. Make the church passionate to seek Your will and pray continually. Grow my desire to spend time with You, and give me the words to say. Make my will closer and closer to being the same as the will of the Father. Amen.