

IV. JESUS FOUND STRENGTH THROUGH PRAYER

A. Jesus found strength over temptation.

⁴¹ *“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

Matthew 26:41

B. Jesus found strength to keep going.

³⁹ *“He went a little farther...”* Matthew 26:39a

⁴³ *“Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.”* Luke 22:43

⁴⁵ *“Then He came to His disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.*

⁴⁶ *Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”* Matthew 26:45-46

C. Don’t give up, lean on God’s grace and power.

¹ *Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,”* Luke 18:1

⁹ *“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”* II Corinthians 12:9

BE TRANSFORMED BY THE GREATER LOVE PRAYER

⁷ *“who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,*

⁸ *though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*

⁹ *And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,”* Hebrews 5:7-9

GREATER LOVE Greater Love Prayer Pastor Steve Reynolds

Introduction:

A. It wasn’t the nails in His hands and feet that held Jesus to the cross. It was the greater love for all of humanity that caused Jesus to endure the cross. Jesus revealed that there is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for others. He demonstrated that greater love when He voluntarily laid down His life for us.

¹³ *“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”* John 15:13

¹⁴ *“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.*

¹⁵ *As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.*

¹⁷ *‘Therefore, My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.*

¹⁸ *No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”*

John 10:14-15, 17-18

B. Let Jesus come alive in your life this Easter! Attend the Greater Love Teaching Series to witness three major scenes surrounding the death of Jesus and be transformed by the greater love of Jesus.

TODAY
Apr 6
Apr 13

Greater Love Prayer
Greater Love Trial
Greater Love Sacrifice

C. TEXT: Matthew 26:36-46

HOW TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE GREATER LOVE PRAYER

I. JESUS PRAYED IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

- A. It is a small garden located just outside the city of Jerusalem where Jesus would often meet with His disciples.

¹ *“When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.*

² *And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples.”*

John 18:1-2

- B. It is interesting to contrast what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane as compared to the Garden of Eden.

¹⁵ *“Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.”*

Genesis 2:15

- C. Create special places to meet with God.

⁶ *“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”*

Matthew 6:6

II. JESUS PRAYED DURING SUFFERING

- A. Jesus suffered emotionally.

³⁷ *“And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.*

³⁸ *Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.’”*

Matthew 26:37-38

- B. Jesus suffered relationally.

⁴⁰ *“Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, ‘What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?’*

⁴³ *And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.”*

Matthew 26: 40, 43

- C. Jesus suffered physically.

⁴⁴ *“And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”*

Luke 22:44

- D. Jesus suffered spiritually.

²¹ *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

II Corinthians 5:21

- E. Ask for God’s comfort, wisdom and hope when you suffer.

¹³ *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray...”*

James 5:13a

III. JESUS PRAYED FOR THE FATHER’S WILL

- A. His posture was He fell on his face.

³⁹ *“He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed...”*

Matthew 26:39a

- B. His petition was to see if it was possible to provide salvation another way.

³⁹ *“...saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’”*

Matthew 26:39b

- C. His priority was to do whatever needed to be done to provide salvation.

⁴² *“Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.’*

⁴⁴ *So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.”*

Matthew 26:42, 44

- D. Seek God’s will, not your own.

¹⁴ *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

¹⁵ *And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”*

I John 5:14-15