

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #88

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 22:39-46

Sermon Date: Jun 10, 2007

When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough ...

... Go it Alone ! ?

Dealing with hard stuff? Don't depend on anyone else. Buck up. Work harder & longer. Stay up late. Grab a couple swords and jump into the fray. If things start to close in on you, be sure to grab a nap so you'll be refreshed when things get really hard. And whatever you do, don't slow down your efforts under the guise of "praying" – there's no time for that. There's work to do!

This is perhaps the American, secular view of life. "I did it my way." And who can argue with valuing persistence, independence, hard work? But when it comes to the bit about not praying, Christians wouldn't agree. Would we?

What do our lives say about all this? How do we actually deal with the hardest stuff life brings our way? When we face our own Gethsemane moments with their grief and sorrow and fear and uncertainty, do we act more like the disciples or more like Jesus? It's tempting in these moments to turn away from God – to not really pray from our hearts. So before we start this study, let's stop and pray – pray that we will not fall into such temptation.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have about Luke's account of the Gethsemane scene. Matthew and Mark also describe this event in their gospels, so to gain a broader perspective of this event, also read Mark's version (next page).

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Luke 22:39-46</p> <p>³⁹ Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.</p> <p>⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Mark 14:32-40</p> <p>³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." ³⁵ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." ³⁷ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." ³⁹ Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. ⁴⁰ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹ Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Facing Sorrow:

4. How was Jesus feeling on this night in the garden? (eg. Mt 26:38)
How did he cope with these extreme emotions?

5. Why do you think Jesus brought Peter, James and John with him when he went further into the garden to pray? Why was it so important that they not fall asleep?

6. The disciples were said to be exhausted from sorrow (Lk 22:45).
What was causing them to have so much sorrow/grief? What did they do (or not do) to cope with their emotions?

7. What do you do when you face extreme sorrow/grief? How could you follow Jesus' example better and deal with sorrow and grief in a more godly manner?

Dealing with Temptation:

8. What specific temptation do you suppose Jesus was warning the disciples about on this night in the garden?

9. What does it mean to fall into temptation? How is that different than facing temptation?

10. What does it look like in your life when you fall into temptation? What strategies does God want you to employ to resist such falls? (see Lk 22:40, 46; Ps 119:9,11)

When Jesus faced trouble & temptation, he stood firm in his faith, and God strengthened him. We saw this same pattern at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry when Satan tempted him – Jesus stood firm in his faith, and God sent angels to attend to him (see Mt 4:10-11).

11. How is our personal relationship with Jesus relevant as we face temptations? (Read Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15-16)

Pray that you will not Fall into Temptation:

12. Jesus showed us how we can pray when we face great difficulty. He was both emotionally honest (“Abba, Father ... take this cup from me”) and willfully submitted (“yet not my will, but yours be done”). How does your prayer life compare to that which Jesus modeled here?

13. Pick an issue or temptation that is on your mind & heart these days, and practice praying as Jesus did – with both emotional honesty and willful submission. Use the space below to write out your prayer regarding this issue.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)