

# *Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church*

Sunday School Lesson

3.22.2026

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Jesus Prepares for Death

**Mark 14: 32 – 52,....**

So, in our life as believers, there is a conflict going on between our worldly desires and our spiritual actions. We know what is right for our life in Christ, but we struggle to resist temptation. This leaves a gap in our life between our good intentions and our spiritual actions. So, you might say that we have good intentions, but we execute those intentions poorly. Therefore, acting on our own we have insufficient willpower to overcome the limitations that we have burdened ourselves with through temptation. Now, being weakened in our faith, we lack the ability and the strength to battle against the flesh. Therefore, we must give the indwelling Holy Spirit complete control over our life, and by constant prayer and study in Gods word, we can shift our focus away from earthly, sinful cravings, to godly, spiritual priorities. Overcoming is not about trying to achieve perfection, but it is about being consistent in our daily decisions to follow after the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, dedicating our life to a service in God. Every believer will experience the struggles within, but when we remain spiritually alert in our relationship with God, he will give unto us strength in our time of need, for we have an advocate with the Father through the atoning sacrifice of his Son, Christ Jesus.

**Colossians 3: 2,....**set your affections on things above, not on things on earth....

**2 Corinthians 10: 5 – 6,....**casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, and having in readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled....

Yes, as believers, we are in a spiritual battle where we must actively align our every thought with the truth of Gods word, because our thoughts become our actions, so it is essential for us to maintain a life that is centered upon Christ. The ultimate goal in our life in Christ, is our obedience to the promises and commandments of his word. This produces a spiritual maturity in our life and allows us to experience the fulness of his love, while still living a life that is devoted to his purpose.

**Mark 14: 32 – 35,....**they came to....Gathsemane....he saith....sit ye here, while I pray....he taketh....Peter and James and John....and saith....my soul is....sorrowful....tarry ye....and watch....he went forward....and fell on the ground, and prayed....if it is possible, the hour might pass from him....

As believers, through prayer, we acknowledge to God our total obedience to him despite experiencing the weight of sufferings and sorrows in our life. This is a call upon our life to allow the characteristics of the fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit to shine forth in our life. Love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. All of these together signify a purposeful deepening of our relationship with God, maintaining a state of readiness while continually looking for Christ return.

**Mark 14: 36 – 42,....**he said....Father....all things are possible unto thee....take away this cup from me, nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt....he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith....couldst not thou watch one hour....watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation....the spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak....again he went away....when he returned, he found them asleep again....he cometh the third time, and saith....take your rest....the hour is come....the Son of man is betrayed....rise up, let us go....

As believers, we are encouraged to maintain a spiritual alertness as we rely upon God for the strength to recognize and overcome the temptation of sin in our life. This means acknowledging that even though the spirit within us reminds us to do good works, the human nature that we inherited from Adam is weak and is prone to failure. But through the preparedness and instruction in his grace we can stand firm, always waiting and watching, so that we might resist the hour of temptation that Satan brings upon us.

So, through prayerful submission we surrender to the Father's will, and by our obedience to the promises and commandments of his word we are transformed from a state of wrestling with the will of God, to performing his will. This command to be alert is a challenge to a spiritual awakening so that we might actively seize the opportunity of every moment to do the work of the Lord.

**Luke 9: 23,....**he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me....

God calls us to surrender daily unto him, to abandon our worldly, selfish, lustful desires, and align our lives with the teachings of his word. This means choosing obedience over temptation, even if it means setting aside our worldly, personal comforts so that we might be a living example unto others, showing them the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

**Mark 14: 43 – 49,....**while he yet spake, cometh Judas....and with him a great multitude....saying, whomsoever I shall kiss....lead him away safely....they laid their hands on him, and took him....one....drew a sword, and smote a....high priest, and cut off his ear....Jesus....said....are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves to take me....I was daily....in the temple teaching, and ye took me not, but the scriptures must be fulfilled....

As believers, God wants us to see and understand the contrast between his truth that is revealed unto us in Christ as the light of the world, and the evil which operates like a thief, using betrayal and deception through false doctrine by false teachers who seek to tear down the spiritual lives of those around them. This in turn challenges the righteous believer to recognize that God's divine judgement will come upon all those who live outside of the truth of his word.

**John 10: 10,....**the thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy....I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly....

Choosing to trust Gods divine guidance brings us into a fulness of life with him. Shifting our focus away from a life of worldliness to a life of service lived in the love, joy, and contentment of the Lord.

**Mark 14: 50 – 52,....**they all forsook him, and fled....there followed him a certain young man....and the young man laid hold on him....and he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked....

At those moments, when we follow after the weaknesses of our human nature, it causes us to abandon our relationship with God. These times of abandonment are not by accident, but they are a fulfillment of God's word. The significance of turning away from God as we face trials and tribulations in our life that end in failures creates within us a feeling of shame that often time leads us to try and hide from God. Therefore, shame keeps us from seeking restoration, but God does not condemn us, he invites us to bring our shame to him, where it can be turned into a testimony of redemption that comes through confession and repentance. So, as believers, we trust that Christ has already bore our shame on the cross and has set us free from the bondage of sin, and this is what Christ prepared for all of mankind through his death.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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