



Walnut Street Church of Christ
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VERTICAL LIMITS – LESSON FIVE
Mount of Olives – The Way to Submission
Jesus In The Garden
(Luke 22:39-46)

Theme: Vertical Limits: God both made and used Mountains and we are using Mountains in Vacation Bible School 2013 to gain some great Bible Lessons. God said, “And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.” (Isaiah 49:11) This “Vertical Limit” lesson deals with Jesus in the Garden. Jesus walked the Glory Land Way as He was totally submissive to the Heavenly Father. The Way to Glory is available to all who would chose to walk that way! (John 14:1-6)

Getting acquainted with the Mount of Olives: The hills of the Mount of Olives served as the eastern border of the ancient city of Jerusalem. The Mount of Olives formed a clear dividing wall that separated the city from the Judean Desert. At the top of the Mountain you get a great view of the desert to the east and the city of Jerusalem to the west. The Mount of Olives was located not far from the site of the Jewish Temple. This Mountain was named for the olive groves that once covered its slopes. From Biblical times until the present, Jews have been buried on the Mount of Olives. There are an estimated 150,000 graves on the Mount. On the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives is Bethany, which was the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. (John 11:1) It was there that Lazarus was raised from the dead by our Lord. (John 11:42-44) Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives. “And when he had spoken these things,

while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.” (Acts 1:9-12)

Other Bible events associated with the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives is frequently mentioned in the New Testament. Jesus made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. This fulfilled what the prophet wrote, “Thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.” (Zechariah 9:9) As he entered Jerusalem the people cried, “Who is this?” The multitude said, “This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.” (Matthew 21:1-11) He is that prophet, but He is far more. He is the only begotten Son of God who died for the sins of the world. The New Testament, tells how Jesus assembled with His disciples and how He instituted the Lord’s Supper. We learn that “when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.” (Matthew 26:26-30) It was on the Mount of Olives that Jesus taught His disciples the great lessons about the destruction of Jerusalem, the end of the world and final Judgment. (Matthew 24-Matthew 25)

The garden at Gethsemane was a place where Jesus went often to pray. The name “Garden of Gethsemane” means “oil press.” This beautiful garden was located on a slope of the Mount of Olives just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem. There is still a garden of old olive trees at that place today. Jesus spent time in the Garden with God. “Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.” (John 8:1-2) No doubt Jesus was able to deal more effectively with very difficult situations after hours of prayer in the Garden. “And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and

said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” (John 8:3-11) Jesus dealt wisely with these people after spending time in the garden.

The most famous thing that ever happened at Gethsemane occurred on the night before Jesus’ crucifixion when He prayed in the Garden and He was betrayed there. Accounts of the events in the Garden are found in all four gospels. (Matthew 26:36-56, Mark 14:32-52, Luke 22:40-53 and John 18:1-11) Each account provides some unique details of Jesus’ submission to God and His submission to the mob that came to take Him. Jesus had just observed the Passover for the last time. After that occasion Passover could never again be observed as an act of worship to God. Before going to the Garden Jesus had instituted the Lord’s Supper and promised to observe it with them in His kingdom. When Jesus went into the Garden, He was heavy hearted. He took three apostles with Him into the Garden. “And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy.” (Mark 14:33) Jesus gave them a command that they did not obey. He said, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41) Instead of watching and praying the disciples slept. On 2 occasions Jesus awoke them and told them, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.” That very night Peter would fall into temptation and even deny the Lord. While the disciples slept Jesus prayed. “And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26:39) Submission is at the heart of this prayer and the next.”He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.” (Matthew 26:42) Jesus was so sorrowful of heart that God sent an angel to strengthen Him. “And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. (Luke 22:43) Jesus yielded Himself to separation from God as He died for the sins of the world.

While Jesus was in the Garden Judas led a mob to capture Jesus.
“Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.” (John 18:2-7) He identified Jesus with a kiss. Today the expression “A Judas Kiss” is synonymous with betrayal. Peter tried to protect Jesus by attacking a man named Malchus and cutting off his ear with a sword. Jesus performed a great miracle by restoring the ear. Sadly, this great miracle had no effect on the multitude. Jesus was arrested and taken to Pontius Pilate. Jesus submitted to the mob, to Pilate’s torture and to the cross in order to make salvation possible.

Lessons learned and points of interest about Jesus’ prayer on the Mount of Olives: (1) “He who lives by the sword dies by the sword.” (Matthew 26:52) (2) “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Mark 14:38) (3) In agony of heart Jesus was sweating as if it were great drops of blood. “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” (Luke 22:44) (4) “For God hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

In order to be saved we must respond to God's offer of grace and mercy. Be converted now! To become a Christian you must hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus as the Christ (Hebrews 11:6), repent of all sins (Acts 17:30), confess Christ as Lord (Matthew 10:32) and be baptized to be saved. (Mark 16:16) Once inside Christ, live a life of faithful, loving, obedience to Christ. If you have not obeyed the gospel, why not do so today? “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

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