



Sermon, Sunday January 2, 2022

“Get up, let us be going”

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26:36-46 ³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” ³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” ⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Introduction: 2022 with Jesus

Dear Brothers and Sisters! Today is New Year's Week. Let us greet each other with "Happy New Year!". As I started the first week of 2022, the Holy Spirit gave me today's text while I was praying about what kind of message to share with you.

Today's text is the story of Jesus praying in Gethsemane. The text describes both the image of Jesus having intimate fellowship with God the Father through prayer, and the image of the disciples who did not. Jesus wants His disciples to be with them despite their shortcomings.

Jesus tells His disciples, “**Get up, let us be going**”. And Jesus asks us to accompany him.

Through today's text, we can learn how to live a life of walking with Jesus. Through the words of today's text, we hope you start the New Year wonderfully by walking with the Lord.

Body: How to Walk with Jesus

In today's text, the Lord asks His disciples to wake up with Him and pray to God the Father. It was not easy for Jesus to bear the cross in obedience to the will of God the Father. **So in today's text verse 38, Jesus says: “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.”**

However, just because Jesus said these words does not mean that Jesus sought human sympathy. We can confirm this through the words of Jesus when He entered Jerusalem to carry the cross. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices. At that time, some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "**Teacher, rebuke your disciples!**" Then Jesus said, “**If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.**” (Luke 19:40). Jesus is not only a man of perfect humanity, but also a man of perfect divinity.

But we are not like Jesus. So it is a blessing for us to have wonderful wives, husbands, parents, children, friends and neighbors to accompany us. And above all else, walking with the Lord is the greatest blessing.



This is because God created us as co-workers to share the joy in creating the heavens and the earth. So, in today's text verse 46, Jesus said to His disciples, "**Get up, let's go together!**" That means the Lord wants us to share joy and grace through our walk with Him.

Also, the Lord said Mark 8:36 that "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" The Lord invites us to share in the joy we experience in saving one's soul. **Jesus said to us; "Get up, let us be going".**

So, how can we walk with Jesus?

First, like Jesus, we should have a time of close prayer with God the Father.

Before carrying the cross, the Lord went to Gethsemane to pray with His disciples. (v.36) Also, after Jesus performed the miracle of Five Loaves and Two Fish, He left the disciples and the crowd behind and went up a mountain to pray. (Matthew 14:23) The Lord always found a time and a place to pray quietly away from hectic daily life. This is for the Lord to experience the grace of God the Father, and obey His will through spiritual fellowship with God. That is why prayer is essential for our walk with Jesus. I hope we will experience the joy of prayer this year.

What is another way we can walk with Jesus?

Second, we should pray with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Look at Matthew 26:40-41. "Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'"

Prayer is aligning our hearts and minds with the will of the Lord. That is why Jesus prays, "**My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.**"(v.39)

The book of James also gives us important lessons about prayer. "**You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.**"(James 4:2-3)

So, the content of Jesus' repeated prayer in Gethsemane is, "**yet I want your will to be done, not mine.**" Why do we need these prayers? Because our hearts are weak and we are easily broken.

Suffering follows in the way of the cross we walk along with Jesus. So because the cost is great and difficult, we are tempted to give up. So, we need to rely on the Holy Spirit and pray that our feeble hearts will obey the will of the Lord.

In addition, we must rely on the Holy Spirit and pray to protect our godly personal life, family, community, and neighbor. It is because we do not fall into temptation only when we depend on the Holy Spirit for prayer. The time and place of prayer are important, but the content of our prayers is even more important.

So, what is another way to walk with Jesus?

Third, we must walk together on the way of the cross that the Lord took.

Verse 46 of today's text says, "Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

The way the Lord wants to go with His disciples is the way of the cross. That way is a path of suffering and sacrifice. We cannot know all of the providence of the Lord. Nevertheless, through our lives walking with the Lord, the Lord's plan is being fulfilled. To participate in this very work is to take up our cross.



However, that way is a path of suffering and sacrifice for our neighbors. So it's not the way everyone can go. This is the only way we can go when the Lord is with us. So, Christians must be able to face hardships with courage.

Therefore, our determination to walk with the Lord means that we are ready to share in His sufferings. Please remember. Jesus' death on the cross did not end with the tragic death of one human being, but was a death that saved all mankind. Therefore, participating in the Lord's suffering as a Christian is not the end of suffering, but a way to save our neighbors through love, the fruit of suffering. The Lord is asking us to go down that path with Him. So, we hope that 2022 will be a year in which we will not be afraid of adversity and will face it boldly.

Conclusion: Let 2022 be a year to abundantly enjoy the grace of the Lord.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. With the Lord, no matter how long or rough the path may be, we can go with a joyful heart. The Lord invites us to a place of prayer. And, He invites us to rely on the Holy Spirit, to not fall into temptation, and to pray with an unchanging heart. Also, He commands us to walk the path of suffering on the cross with the Lord.

The difficulties we face to walk the way of the cross with the Lord do not end in suffering, but abundant fruit is promised.

We hope that in 2022, we will experience the abundance of grace that the Lord has planned for us through walking with the Lord. Amen!

