

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Culmination of the Ministry

The Testing of Peter (Cont.)

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.

And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Then cameth he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.

Now he that betrayed him gave him a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, Master, and kissed him.

And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

And behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest, and smote off his ear.

Then Jesus said unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

In that same hour said Jesus to the multitude, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

--- Matt. 26: 42 - 56.

Gethsemane is formed of two words, *gath*, "a press"; also "bitterness": and *shemen*, "oil," "understanding," "wisdom." The cross must ever precede the crown; true wisdom is born of pain.

Three times did the Christ return to find the Disciples sleeping. They were unable to reach the exaltation of spirit that He knew. The betrayal of the Christ within man is threefold and comes through the weakness of the flesh, the strength of the desire nature, and the lack of spiritual power to know the constant, abiding communion with the "I am" within.

The Christ healed the ear of Malchus, servant of the high priest, by the use of the powerful life forces emanating from His own home world where all is life and love and harmony. The Christ transmitted the radiations from the high sphere to such a degree that merely to stand in His presence was to receive them.

The Master could have summoned legions of Angels and Archangels to His side, for He is Lord of them all, but He remained true to that vow which is always taken by one who would wield the powers of the Initiate: every aid for others; nothing for self.

(Continued)

* * * BIBLE INTERPRETATION

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