

Word of the Great King | the gift of living under authority

The Prayer that Gets to Yes

Matthew 26:36-46

July 17, 2022

Introduction: We're rightly suspicious of authority. "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely," Lord Acton quips. But one day Jesus met a Roman soldier who understood the power of being under power. "I am a man under authority," he says, and because I am, "I say to one 'Go', and he goes." Maybe today we feel so impotent because we're so intent on throwing off authority and becoming our own. The Bible offers an alternative: to find the authority in our lives under the authority of a great King.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, grant us understanding of the way you wisely chose to express your authority in the passage we are reading together today. Help us apply what we learn from you to the situations we face in our lives. Amen.

Review: What did God reveal to you about His purpose in the conflicts in your life?

Read: Matthew 26:36-46

Discussion:

1. Scan the verses that immediately precede today's passage (Mt 26:17-35) What might the disciples be preoccupied with as they entered the garden with Jesus?
2. What do you make of Jesus' choice to leave most of the disciples behind taking only Peter, James and John with him to pray? Are there other episodes in the gospels where you recall Jesus also doing this?
3. What did Jesus reveal to Peter, James and John by his words and actions in verses 37-39? How did the disciples respond?
4. Describe the powers and authorities at the heart of Jesus' struggle. What progression do you see in Jesus' first prayer, the second and the third prayers? What do you conclude about which power and authority ultimately prevailed?
5. Where are you currently facing a struggle against powers or authorities in your life? How might Jesus' example in this passage be helpful to you in your current situation?

Application: Commit to pray daily about the area of struggle you identified in question 5. Try praying that God's will prevail in that situation.

Prayer: Father thank you for the life you lived in the presence of witnesses showing how to remain faithful even in the face of temptation and opposition. Grant us the strength to stand firm in your promises and focused on accomplishing your will. Amen.