



## Facing trials with prayer and obedience

~Rev. Yoman Man

There are often great difficulties in evangelism. Those who are familiar with the 10th chapter of Matthew's Gospel will know that the Lord Jesus foretold various trials of missions very seriously. The Lord Jesus even said that servants are like their masters (v. 25). In missions, we will encounter trials similar to those encountered by the Lord. He often prayed to deal with the trials He encountered. From His experience, we can learn to pray to face missionary trials, and the prayer of Gethsemane can be regarded as the best example of all. That was the most personal prayer of Jesus. In the greatest trial of His life, he needed to talk privately with the Father alone.

On the night of Passover, things changed dramatically. The disciples' joyous and reverent dinner became a farewell feast for Jesus. Just when they left the dinner and came to the garden, Jesus actually said the painful prayer that shocked everyone's hearts. After eating, they sang hymns as per tradition. While they were ruminating the peculiar prophecy that Jesus just said, Jesus' mind was already occupied with the crucifix in front. How can the peace of hope and triumph at supper turn into sorrow of doubting and struggling?

This garden is called Gethsemane, the garden of oil press, where the olives are pressed out of oil. Jesus was also heavily oppressed here, like squeezing out the virtuous oil that heals wounded souls. This garden was frequented by Jesus and His disciples. Judas the betrayer knew that they were there. John 18:2 said: *"Now Judas, who betrayed Him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples." At the moment when Jesus came to the garden, Judas was carrying out his trick to betray Him. Over there, the violent chief priests and council members were waiting for the plot to kill Jesus to come true. The climax of Jesus' death for the world took place there and then.*

After Jesus was arrested, He explained in Luke 22:53: *"Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns." Although Satan could not understand: How can the wisdom of the one true God give me a fatal blow to my head through the death of His Son in coming to earth? But because Satan insisted on defeating God's ambitions, even if he wants to guard against the mystery of the Son coming to attack him, he still can't help but use his cruel and deadly evil tricks to murder God's Son. In the tragic confrontation between God and Satan, the incarnated Jesus endured great threats. He only obeyed and trusted His father, and with the heart of His love for mankind, He was willing to take the painful blows and accept the earth-shattering catastrophe unfolding head on.*

In fact, the greatest calamity for Jesus was the heavy burden of the sins of the world. Isaiah 53:6 says: *"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Jesus was willing to accept innocently of being killed because He accepted the atonement arrangement the Father made to bear the sins of many.*

The Gospels use a few words to describe His intense pain at this moment, which is the strongest wording in the Greek. Even exhausting these words, it is still impossible to describe this extreme suffering being afflicted on Him. But this was the only window to pry into His suffering.

Matthew 26:38 says: *"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow..." In the midst of this sky-churning tsunami of life, in comparing the sadness described with sorrows of the past, today's trials are the most severe. "...to the point of death" was extremely heart-rending, causing the heartbeat to quicken, to the point of risking death from the heart burst. At this moment, Satan's vicious attack, the punishment and evil consequences of all the sins of the world, God's sacred, righteous, holy wrath and judgment all fell on Him.*

At this moment, Jesus Himself might be worried that His body would be unable to bear and He could die before being hung on the cross. God listened to His prayer and sent angels to serve Him. Luke 22:43 says: *"An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened Him."*

Mark 14:33 said Jesus began to be deeply distressed. He had never experienced such a huge and heavy blow, and He felt very surprised. In the past, looking at the cross from a distance was the big plan of atonement, but now came the moment when the catastrophe was approaching, the pressure of pain was beyond imagination. His humanity entered a new experience of great suffering. He was to obey His father's will to complete the mission and face the biggest challenge in the end. It was extremely difficult to drink a bitter cup of many bitterness and calamities. He must have felt an unspeakable panic in the heart, and His body had a dizzying reaction. He was deeply troubled and said, *"the sadness in my heart has also faced its limit"*.

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In this earth-shattering great temptation, Jesus called out the greatest faith and obedience of the righteous in Matthew 26:39: "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

The prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane was the victory of Jesus and the beginning of the completion of salvation. We must be grateful. We must also learn that the Lord will make God's will fulfilled in the life of prayer and the battle of the gospel ministry.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Thank the Lord He allowed 65,000 medical staff to receive COVID vaccinations already in South Africa and that the daily infection rate has reduced to less than 1,500. Number of deaths per month has also decreased to around 150. Please continue to pray unceasingly.
2. Ask God for quietness and to send His message as Rev. Douglas Wu works on the weekly sermons, and that His words are accurately interpreted.
3. Mrs. Whitney Wu asked God to allow the children Sunday School from the regular time to Sunday afternoon. Please pray that this can proceed.
4. Pray for God's clear will with regard to the change of Helen Wu's application to New Zealand and now her applying for other job opportunities. Ask that Clarence can complete his internship this year as planned and that he can apply for transfer to official dental studies.
5. Please pray for the reopening of youth fellowship at PECCC in Marcy. Ask the Lord to lead and train up these young lives.
6. Please pray for safety of Alex and Nicole in their going out and coming in. Ask God to protect and guard them. Pray for the planning of their ministries. Ask God to help them with time management in better train coworkers during the pandemic, and to lead to more opportunities for spreading the gospel. Pray also for in-person gatherings to resume soon.
7. Brazil's COVID condition has become more and more dire. Just on March 23 alone, 3,251 people died from the country. Please pray for God's mercy and grace upon them.
8. Rev Jorge and Mrs. Loo was traveling to *Belem, capital of Para, March 16-20, the capital of Para for a medical mission. This would be the first time they travel to the city. Ask God to open the door to the gospels and pray that a Bible study class can be established.*
9. They will be traveling to *Sao Luis, capital of Maranhao March 21-26 for medical mission as well. This would be the second time they are there. Also ask for God to open to the gospels, especially that they can share the gospel with Mr. Wang and his family. Continue to pray for Rev Loo to have Bible study time with Mr. Wang, the first one to accept Christ in that city, every Tuesday morning.*
10. Pray for the Ghana village school building and renovation projects in *Yeji and Mwonbura. Pray that these projects will be completed soon as students have returned to school after the COVID-19 lockdown.*
11. Pray for the planning and preparation of a virtual meeting with the Roma pastors, hopefully within the next month.
12. Pray for the recruiting effort underway to fill job vacancies in CIM for a Director of Ministry to oversee STM and daily operations, and an Executive Director successor.
13. Pray that God will move more brothers and sisters to join the ministry so God's kingdom would be more prosperous. Pray for God's abundant provision for all the financial needs of CIM.

## NOTE

Beginning March 1, please call 408-596-4567 to contact CIM for questions or comments. Thank you for your continual support.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### February 2021

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<b>General</b>	\$7,167	\$1,107	\$6,060
<b>Missions</b>	\$6,806	\$9,359	-\$2,553
<b>Total</b>	\$13,973	\$10,466	\$3,507

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- 1) Make checks payable to "CIM" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA
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