

I read an article about a couple who were on vacation the couple were sound asleep when suddenly the woman was woken up by an intruder. The intruder being a man quickly restrained her and then after attacking her he brutally sexually assaulted her while her husband slept through the entire attack.

He finally woke up after hearing his wife crying loudly but by this time it was too late the intruder had left now can you imagine how devastated he was when he woke up to find that his wife had been beaten sexually assaulted and was absolutely terrified? Now if he was devastated just imagine how she felt.

Maybe you can relate to what I am about to say are there nights when you are disturbed from your sleep when you or your partner hear noises and you sit up and turn on a bedside light and look around the room and then look out the window maybe sometimes you may even go outside to investigate further.

Why? Why would you do that well maybe because your family is precious to you and you want to protect them from anything or anyone who would do them harm.

But then again there are some nights when you go to bed when you are so exhausted that you just drop off into a deep sleep you know the type one of those deep sleeps when a freight train couldn't wake you up!

**Mark 3:27** says **there is no way anyone who enters a strong man's house is able to plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man, and then he can plunder his house.**

Well sad to say these days intruders do enter houses easily and yes they do plunder the house while the man of the house sleeps and yes unfortunately sometimes the man of the houses goods which is plundered is his wife.

We turn on the TV and almost every night on the nightly news we watch stories about house intrusions and rapes while the partner sleeps and robberies while both partners are asleep yes unfortunately this is an epidemic of the 21<sup>st</sup> century people wanting money for drugs people robbing houses purely for the thrill these are sick people who do not care about the terror or the heartache which they have left behind them all they care about is the thrill of living in the now not for tomorrow.

And I am also very sad to have to say there are so many Christians today who are asleep spiritually and the enemy is attacking them within the enemy Satan is dead set on attacking them more and more until he finally overpowers their mind.

Maybe these people are a Christian by name only.

Maybe the church which they attend is at fault for their slumber.

Maybe it is their faith that is weak.

Maybe they are just at Church for the sake of saying I am a good person see I go to Church.

There are many ways in which someone can be spiritually asleep.

If the lack of faith or just for sake of saying I attend Church is their answer well maybe they had better sit down in a real quiet place and examine themselves very closely examine their life and where they are and where they want to go because while they slumber their being plundered.

Also today far too many Churches are “Sleeping While our Saviour Suffers”.

Today the love of money is on the top of many a Churches agenda.

These Churches are sleeping but rich while Our Saviour suffers.

Our Saviour suffered greatly on that cross until His final breathe of air

just to save us and our LORD and Saviour **is still suffering in heaven to this day** watching His brothers and Sisters slumber when they should be **servng and praying** serving and praying for one another praying for the world praying that people wake up listen and learn.

Our dear brother our King and our GOD Lord Jesus Christ came to this Earth to save **all** of mankind everyone every single one of us who were and **are still willing to come to Him** and to bow down before Him and to willingly accept His great sacrifice which He made for us all to accept and to allow LORD Jesus in our hearts and lives as our LORD and saviour.

Lord Jesus Christ for some 33 years walked upon this earth in the flesh yet many people to this day do not believe that fact why well because maybe they are sleeping.

LORD Jesus Christ taught with great authority while He was here on Earth and there are many scriptures which back up that statement yet many people to this day do not believe that fact why **because maybe they are sleeping** **that's why**.

LORD Jesus Christ in that short time fulfilled many prophecies and He performed many incredible miracles yet many people to this day do not believe that fact **why** because they are sleeping they just **couldn't care less.**

Yes Lord Jesus Christ our LORD and Saviour changed many lives in that short time.

And since that time LORD Jesus Christ continues to change people's lives as He continues to work in people's lives.

Today Jesus is in the hearts and minds **of all** who believe in Him and believe in His name.

Today LORD Jesus is still out there working in and through His many countless disciples who spread His wonderful word the Gospel of truth.

And did you know that the wonderful Gospel of truth the books of the Holy bible were once known as the autographs and an autograph is something that is written by one's own hand and that hand was **Christ's** working in and through man.

I would like to read a story from the bible to you about sleeping from **Mark 14:27-40** Then Jesus said to them, "All of you shall be offended in Me in this night; for it is written, 'I will smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go before you into Galilee." Then Peter said to Him, "Even if all shall be offended, yet I shall not." And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, today, in this very night, before the cock crows twice, you shall deny Me three times." But he spoke more adamantly, "If it were necessary for me to die with You, I would not deny You in any way." And they all spoke in the same manner also. Then they came to a place that was called Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray. And He took Peter and James and John with Him; and He began to be deeply troubled and heavy hearted. And He said to them, "My soul is filled with anguish, even to death; remain here and watch." Then He went forward a little, dropped to the ground and prayed, that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible with You. Remove this cup from Me! Yet not what I will, you will." Then He came and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, "Simon, are You sleeping? Were you not able to watch one hour? Watch and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit truly is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again He went away and prayed the same thing. And when He returned, He again found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. And He came the

third time, and said to them, "Sleep on now, and take your rest. It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Those 3 disciples are a great picture of many Christians who are sleeping while our saviour suffers.

At this point in the life of our Saviour His purpose for coming to this earth was soon to come to a close and His Mission would soon be fulfilled.

Back in verses 12-26 we read where they all celebrated the Passover and it is still a joy to all who love the LORD to come together and celebrate the renewing of our vows and to reaffirm our faith in LORD Jesus Christ at that special time of the year Passover.

Then after this they all left the upper room and Jerusalem.

The LORD and His disciples then made their way through the Kidron Valley across the Kidron brook to the Garden of Gethsemane.

And I have read that to cross the Kidron brook one would both see and smell the blood from the sacrificial animals which flowed down from the temple into this brook through specially made channels which were made under the floor of the slaughter room In the temple.

This valley is known in Scripture only by the name the brook Kidron. If you remember King David crossed this brook bare foot and weeping when fleeing from his son Absalom as we find in 2 Samuel 15:23-30 and it was frequently crossed by our Lord in his journeys from Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives.

It is Here at this brook that King Asa burned the obscene idols of his mother 1 Kings 15:13-16 and here Queen Athaliah the widow of King Jehoram was executed 2 Kings 11:16.

This brook afterwards became the receptacle for all manner of impurities 2 Chronicles 29:16 ; 30:14 and in the time of Josiah this valley was the common cemetery of the city 2 Kings 23:6.

The brook's length from its head to en-Rogel is 2 3/4 miles.

Its steep rocky banks are filled with ancient tombs especially the left bank opposite the temple area.

The greatest desire of the Jews is to be buried there from the idea that the Kidron valley is the "valley of Jehoshaphat" which is mentioned in Joel 3:2 .

Below en-Rogel the Kidron has no historical or sacred interest.

It runs in a winding course through the wilderness of Judea to the north western shore of the Dead Sea.

Its whole length in a straight line is only some 20 miles but in this space its descent is about 3,912 feet.

Recent excavations have brought to light the fact that the old bed of the Kidron is about 40 feet lower than its present bed and about 70 feet nearer the sanctuary wall.

Just prior to this journey to Gethsemane in chapter 13 of Mark Jesus taught His disciples about many future events which were to take place before His return and while He was with them on the dusty roads Jesus taught His disciples and all who were willing to listen to Him about the Peace of God the love of God and about surrendering your life to the Lord wholeheartedly the coming of the Holy Spirit and many other wonderful things.

And even though Jesus walked this Earth some or even most of His disciples still did not believe Who He was even after personally witnessing people raised from the dead lepers healed and blind men to see **they still did not fully believe in Jesus yet they followed Him** it is not until [Mark 8:27-30](#) that Peter finally confessed that Jesus was the Christ and that confession was not that far behind when LORD Jesus was crucified some 6 to 8 months later.

We read in [Matthew 6:9-13](#) where find a model or a guide of the LORDS prayer.

However we find the true Lord's Prayer in [John 17:1-26](#) that whole chapter is devoted to a wonderful prayer from Jesus it is a prayer deep from inside the heart of our LORD and Saviour Jesus to The Father.

Jesus Prays to Be Glorified once more and Jesus prays for all whom the Father has given Him in verse 9 but He is not praying for the world i found that interesting.

Jesus' in His opening statement in His Prayer to the Father said "Father the hour has come" well yes now His hour has come.

But do you know what is strange about the LORDS words in the opening of His prayer 7 times in the book of John Jesus spoke similar words they can be found in [John 2:4](#) [7:6](#) which says My time has not yet come [7:8](#) says My time has not yet been fulfilled [7:30](#) His time had not yet come [8:20](#) His time had not yet come [13:1](#) knowing that His time had come and [17:1](#) the hour has come.

So there were 5 had not or not yet and 2 confirming that His time had come and has come recorded in the book of John.

And an 8<sup>th</sup> in the book of **Matthew 26:18** where Jesus said My time is near.

I thought that that was interesting and worth mentioning.

LORD Jesus would soon be betrayed by one of His own into the hands of His enemies.

And He would be abandoned by His closest followers His closest followers meaning I feel His remaining 11 disciples.

This was no surprise to Jesus Jesus even proclaimed that this would be the case **All ye shall be offended because of me this night for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered** as found in **Mark 14:27**.

As they approached the garden of Gethsemane Jesus told His disciples to sit down for a while.

Then we read in verses 33-34 **that He** being of course LORD Jesus **took Peter and James and John with Him, and He began to be deeply troubled, and heavy hearted, and He said to them, My soul is filled with anguish, even to death, remain here and watch**.

Our LORD and saviour was deeply troubled He knew what lay ahead of Him He knew the torture that He was about to face the mocking the hatred of evil men poured out upon Him Who is innocent He knew also the loss of loved ones while in His human body remember He lost His step father.

Jesus gave His followers a simple task to obey Jesus told them in **Mark 14:34 remain here and watch** however **Luke 22:40** says **and when He arrived at the place, He said to them, pray that you do not enter into temptation**.

**Mark 14:37** then says **Then He came and found them sleeping, And He said to Peter, Simon, are you sleeping, were you not able to watch one hour**.

Remember His hour **has come** and His disciples were to watch one hour.

**Verse 38** confirms what Luke wrote. **Watch and pray, so that you do not fall into temptation, the Spirit is truly willing, but the flesh is weak**.

How so true those words of our Saviour are our flesh is indeed very weak.

What were the LORDS disciples doing well they were doing exactly what most people today are still doing they were sleeping while our saviour suffers.

Jesus is telling them to pray but who for Not for Him Jesus is telling them to pray for themselves Jesus said **Watch and pray, so that you do not fall into temptation.**

That you I feel may mean you and me as well.

Also at this point in time Jesus Himself while in the flesh needed strengthening because His hour **had arrived** and He could have opted out of the pain and suffering which He was soon to face **but Jesus never gave into the temptation** and yes LORD Jesus **was tempted again at this time** because we read in **Luke 22:43** then angels from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.

Our LORD was in agony He prayed that the cup be taken from Him but added Your will be done Father **not Mine.**

Yes our flesh is weak and our minds are weak maybe our spirit within is willing but our flesh is certainly weak Jesus' flesh I feel was experiencing strange emotions strange feelings strange thoughts which may have scared Him which may have tempted Him these strange human feelings thoughts and emotions may have terrified Him but He still **willingly** went through it all for us for you and me what a great Saviour mankind has we have a Saviour Who has experienced every emotion and every temptation which we feel while we are in this weak flesh.

How do we know this because it is recorded in **Hebrews 2:17-18** for this reason, it was obligatory for Him to be made like His brethren in everything, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, in order to make propitiation for the sins of the people, for Because He himself has suffered having been tempted in like manner, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

And also **Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a High Priest Who cannot empathize with our weaknesses, but one who was tempted in all things, according to the likeness of our own temptations, yet He was without sin.

Are we not blessed I think we are we are blessed above measure.

Why did Jesus just single out Peter in verse 37 interesting question Luke does not mention the singling out of Peter but Matthew also mentions just Peter in [Matthew 26:40](#).

Maybe it may have been because Peter may have needed more strengthening than James and John remember Jesus told Peter to get behind in [Matthew 16:23](#) then He turned and said to Peter, get behind Me, Satan, you are an offence to Me because your thoughts are not in accord with the things of God, but the things of men.

Maybe when our thoughts wander away from Godly thoughts and our thoughts linger on the things of this world then possibly we are sleeping on the job at hand [1 Peter 5:8](#) says be sober, be vigilant, for your adversary the devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, seeking anyone he may devour, whom resist, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are being fulfilled among your brethren who are in the world.

Yes temptation is everywhere and it is attacking everyone it is attacking us even in our sleep remember in a dream we can live out our **wildest fanaticises** a **dream is** where our desires in the flesh are turned into a reality in our minds in a dream we can be whoever we want to be and we can do whatever we choose to do even if what **we choose to do in our dream is wrong** yes even in a dream we are being tempted staying awake and watching even means **in our sleep** as silly as that may sound to you Jesus warned us in [Matthew 5:28](#) but I say to you, everyone who looks upon a woman to lust after her, has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Why would our great God create man and woman with a mind so powerful that we can sin even while we are sleeping maybe we are being tested in our conscious and in our sub conscious mind also So staying awake and watching I feel is a 24 hour a day and night job for us while in the flesh.

Unfortunately instead of watching and praying the LORDS followers fell asleep.

Not once not twice but three times.

I would like you to think about a few things which may have been on Peter James and John's mind because some very shocking news had been revealed to them by their Master.

Jesus had told them that they would be scattered that very night that may have upset them and their thoughts.

Jesus also revealed to them that one of them would betray Him that also may have been on their minds.

And Peter had been told **specifically** that **he would deny Jesus 3 times** before morning.

Maybe that is why the LORD singled out Peter for going to sleep maybe Peter's mind may have been on what would cause him to deny his Master 3 times.

Yes truly this was an eventful but devastating night for Peter, James and John.

And it was a great honour for them that Jesus allowed them to go a little farther with Him than the rest of His disciples.

It is clear through the scripture that these three men were Jesus' most trusted disciples.

One lesson we learn is that even those closest to Jesus may fail from time to time.

Look at Judas he had the best and the wisest teacher he had the best leader he had the best friend and he walked with GOD and what happened to him **he failed he failed miserably** today we have the church and sometimes when we fail it is not the Churches fault it is **our attitude** if we are not willing to change our attitude then like Judas we **may fail** we all need to wake up and watch.

Today more than ever there is a need for steadfast devotion not wishy washy devotion when it suits us was Peter devoted and I am not judging Peter please do not get me wrong because the bible is our teacher the bible is the Word of GOD in print for us to learn from.

Peter said to Him in **Mark 14:29** even if all shall be offended, yet I shall not, And Jesus said to him, truly I say to you, in this very night, before the cock crows twice, you shall deny me three times. But he spake **the more adamantly, If it were necessary for me to die with You, I would not deny You in any way, and they all spoke in the same manner also.**

However when it looked like the axe was about to fall on their necks they **all denied Jesus** and Peter denied Jesus not once not twice but **3 times as Jesus told him that he would** if I were there maybe I would have ran away as well that is why I said I am not judging Peter or any other of the Lords disciples we as loyal followers of Jesus may soon

face the same decision and then the question will be will we remain steadfast or will **we deny Jesus** as well and run away.

We have come to learn that when it comes to steadfast devotion and being a good Christian soldier there is far more involved to it than just saying we are devoted to the LORD.

True devotion involves More Than Words it may mean our lives because we are whether you want to believe it or not living in a very dark and evil time in human history.

And this is definitely not the time for the Lords servants to drift off into a slumber because while we are comfortably snoozing away all tucked away in our comfortable lives the alarm may go off and we may and excuse the pun be caught with our pants down remember the 10 virgins only 5 were wise because the other 5 well they hit the snooze button.

And this world is still snoozing comfortably and sleeping in to this day-- look around the whole world seems to be blinded to the truth and to the Word of GOD most people have stopped their ears and have grown a stony heart within their chests because when it comes to the truth of God the word of God the love of God and the commandments of God **that truth that love those commandments all interfere with their lifestyles.**

LORD Jesus Christ and His loyal followers are under attack from the enemy like never before and you only need to read the newspapers or watch TV to see the proof Christians are being persecuted in almost every country on this planet.

Unfortunately many who say that they follow the LORD in the world today have followed the example of Peter James and John in the Garden of Gethsemane at this important time in Christian history when we need to be awake and watching **we are slumbering** and sadly many churches **have also gone to sleep** they all slumber while our saviour suffers and agonizes over them.

As Sebastian spoke about in his message we must help and encourage the seeds to grow into a harvest for the LORD but when I look around most of the seeds which were once sown have withered up and almost died the dew which people seek today is not the dew from the Word of God which makes the roots of our seeds grow strong it is

the dew of this world which craves for a life of living life to the full living for and in the now living a life packed full with all the human pleasures lusts wants and needs now.

As we have all witnessed in recent months even our own government has become anti God because they have allowed themselves to fall into a self imposed power hungry coma which is oblivious to the word of GOD.

Our Saviour is under attack and it seems that the Government the church and many Christians are fast asleep while our saviour suffers.

The message contained in Mark 14:27-41 I believe is for us today Peter James and John I feel represent the Church and the Church is to remain faithful and obedient to her Lord we are told to stay awake and watch and watching means even when we sleep because temptation is all around us remember the strong man of Matthew 12:29 **how is anyone able to enter into the house of a strong man and plunder his goods, if he does not first bind the strong man, and then he will plunder his goods.**

Mankind has been plundered through temptation right from the Garden of Eden the LORD said in verse 28 **but if I by the Spirit of GOD cast out demons** have you thought about that verse this way maybe Satan is the strong man that had us bound by sin and death and Jesus broke into Satan's house and redeemed us back from him because Jesus and only Jesus could bind the strong man.

Jesus did this by becoming human and facing death with complete obedience to God and then rose from the grave to defeat death and to give us life So Praise God.

And just what did Jesus bring out of the Strong Man's house? Treasure and guess what that treasure is us you and me and all who love the LORD.  
So keep watching.

4472