

THE GOSPEL OF ABUNDANCE
Week 6

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 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch^[d] with me." ³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ **Watch and pray** that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³ And 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 again. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on.^[e] See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

When Jesus tells Peter, James, and John to watch and pray, He knows that in them watching Him they would be rightly motivated to pray. Jesus wanted them to see His agony because they would be riveted to Him, compelled to call out to the Father in prayer. When Jesus tells Peter, James, and John to watch with Him, that itself is an expression of abundance. The abundance that even motivation to pray could be sourced from fixing our eyes on Jesus.

Our prayer life at times can be primarily driven out of desperation of needs, or out of self-discipline because we know we should pray. Both of those are valid. However, this call to watch and pray can be a place of abundance in prayer. As we keep our eyes on Jesus, and in the scriptures, we will be compelled to pray! God wants to give us an abundant opportunity to see Jesus as He is, and as we see Him, we will be drawn to prayer.

QUESTION: How is your prayer life?

QUESTION: When do you find it hard to pray?

QUESTION: What does it look like for you personally to keep watching Jesus?

QUESTION: Similar to how Amy Ward compared focusing on the warfare we see/feel distracting us from looking higher to hear/see what God is saying and doing, is it possible for self-discipline routines in prayer to become a distraction in watching God?