



March 13, 2016 | Various Scriptures

Last week in John 17, we listened in as Jesus interceded for His disciples and for all believers. John 18:1 says, *When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.* (ESV) John doesn't record Jesus' prayer in the Garden, but Matthew 26, Mark 14 and Luke 22 do. We'll look at Mark's version.

Jesus' Prayer in the Garden

Read Mark 14:32-42.

[Q] What did Jesus request of His Father?

Jesus' struggle in the garden can be understood only in the light of what would happen to Him on the cross.

[Q] What was going to happen to Jesus on the cross according to the following verses?

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Now reread and personalize the above verses, substituting *my*, *I* and *me* for our, we and us.

[Q] How does knowing what He was facing help you understand His request?

[Q] What did Jesus achieve through the submission of His will and obedience to His Father?

Read Hebrews 5:7-9.

[Q] What is your response to Jesus' prayer and subsequent obedience? How does this affect your prayers and obedience to Him?

Our Prayer — Confession and Repentance

Confess means to agree, admit, concede, acknowledge. When we confess we're agreeing with God. We're admitting our guilt.
Repent means to change your mind; also to change behavior or change direction or turn around.

When we confess and repent, we aren't paying for our sin, we're acknowledging what Jesus paid for us.

[Q] What did Jesus pay according to Colossians 2:13-14?

[Q] Read 1 John 1:5-10 and Psalm 32:5. Why is confession and repentance so important in the walk of a believer?

What happens when we don't confess our sins to God? (See also Proverbs 28:13.)

[Q] How does your view of God's love for you affect your ability to fully confess your sin? Is it sometimes hard to believe that He actually forgives you?

[Q] Psalm 32:1 says, *How joyful is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!* (HCSB) Have you experienced the grace and cleansing of confession and repentance? Please share your experience with your group, if possible.

[Q] How would you like to incorporate confession and repentance into your conversations with God? with others?

Group Prayer

Remember: *there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus*, 1 Tim. 2:5
Write your own prayer of confession for daily use incorporating Psalm 51, 32 or 139.
In your Bible reading, ask –“Is there sin I need to confess?”