

# Our Victorious Warrior

Luke 22:39-46

## “When the going gets tough...the tough get going”

What journeys can get tough or challenging?

When the going gets tough, what keeps us going?

When following God gets tough, what helps us keep going?

## When reading the Bible: Always check the context...

### Before this passage: There are tough times ahead

The Last Supper: “This is my body, given for you...this is the new covenant in my blood (my death)”

One of the disciples will betray Jesus

Satan will attack them

### After this passage: And people will fail Jesus

Judas betrayed Jesus

Disciples fought with a sword to prevent Jesus’ arrest

Peter denied even knowing Jesus

Jesus was mocked and beaten plus a fake trial

### >> In the place of such trouble, what are we to do? <<

## Luke 22:39-46

agonia: only used in the Bible this one time

It looks like “agonia” → “extreme suffering”

But in Greek: “The struggle to win the prize in a contest”

agonizomai (verb form): “to contend, fight, strive earnestly”

“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.” *Luke 13:24*

“To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.” *Colossians 1:29*

“Fight the good fight of the faith.” *1 Timothy 6:12*

Jesus was not passively suffering or fearing death

Jesus was fighting to the death to do the will of the Father

Jesus consciously, voluntarily, and obediently followed the Father’s plan to save us...at the greatest possible cost

Sweating drops of blood: as warrior who was fighting faithfully until victory in death

The question of Jesus’ life: Would He be faithful to God all the way until death?

In His death, we have the proof: He was “obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

That is His great victory! He never turned back from God’s plan

Jesus died on the cross, following the relentless attacks of Satan, the failures and attacks by His friends, the attacks of the people He came to save, and the wrath of the Father against Him for our sin, **yet He never once sinned or failed to love**

Jesus was victorious!

In the greatest battle for the greatest victory through prayerful submission to the Father

And He said to His disciples (twice):

“Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

## The Big Idea

**Following God through tough times comes as we seek His will through prayer**

Prayer is a key means...

To know God’s will: desire, plan, purpose

To accept God’s will: instead of our own

To have the strength to follow God’s will



A false choice: pray or do something

We can only do what we are called to do through prayer

In this passage, One prayed and the others slept

And in the hours that followed...

One faithfully submitted to the Father even to the death

The others gave in to temptation

Doing without Praying won't endure in God's ways

### Our greatest battle...

Not:

A world gone astray

Christians who are deceived or wrongheaded

Opponents of Christianity

Rather:

The battle in me: my will or God's will

Jesus is our model: "Not my will, but yours be done"

Following God when His way seems best is not really following

**Following God when His way is more costly is the way of Christ, and it only comes with prayer**

### The Lord's Prayer

"Your kingdom come" and not mine

"Your will be done" and not mine

"Lead us not into temptation" → whatever pulls me away from God and His will

### Follow His will

To love Him completely

To put others before ourselves

To forgive when hurt and to love when hated

And sometimes, that's why we don't want to pray!!!

It takes courage!

## Application

### Pray

What to pray? That we will fully submit to the Father

"Protect us from situations that pull us from You"

"Strengthen us to remain faithful even when tempted"

It is good to ask God to consider our plans (our will)

Even more: **Ask for His help to follow His plan, not ours**

Jesus' model: the Son of God lived in dependence upon His Father, praying so that His work was in God's ways  
by God's strength

Pray the heart changing prayer: Your will, and not mine

You decide: when and where will you pray, and in what form

→ just pray!

Jesus' repeated command and example: "Pray so that you won't fall into temptation"

By prayer...

Jesus learned the Father's will, accepted it, and was strengthened to follow it

Let's follow Him

### Worship our Savior: the victorious warrior who is also compassionate and merciful

#### Victorious Warrior

"And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"

*Philippians 2:8*

who is also compassionate and merciful

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” *Hebrews 4:15-16*

Jesus was victorious through courageous prayer!

In His humanity, His victory came because He fought through prayer

And He calls us to do the same

Maybe we know the battle between our will and His will

Maybe we don’t

**Either way, we should pray!**

### Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What is the difference between the prayer where we bring our requests to God and the prayer where we seek His will rather than our own? What role do these two forms of prayer play in your own prayer life?
2. Do you know where a battle is between your will and God’s will? If so, what is it? What are the situations that pull you away from God related to this issue?
3. What practices help you to pray? Is there a new practice you might consider adding to your prayer life?
4. Is there someone who can help you in prayer? Is there someone you can help in prayer?