

## Choosing To Be In Gethsemane

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Rich Nathan

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Worship: Worship as a Lifestyle Series

Matthew 26:36-46

About two weeks before I was born, a very attractive black woman boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus – not in Columbus, but in Montgomery, Alabama. She was returning home after her regular day's work in a department store. She was tired from standing on her feet all day and so she sat down in the first seat beyond the section reserved for whites.

Well, the white section of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama, filled up and so the bus driver came back and ordered her along with 3 other black passengers, to move to the back in order to accommodate more of the white passengers that were boarding. By this time, every seat on the bus was taken and that meant that this woman, who you know as Rosa Parks, had followed the driver's command, she would have to stand while a white male passenger who had just boarded the bus would sit.

The other three black passengers immediately complied with the driver's request. They got up from their seats and stood at the back of the bus. But Mrs. Parks quietly refused. She was tired from working all day, tired of the indignities of always giving up her seat, especially to a man, tired of being a victim. And the result of her refusing to move was that she was arrested.

Montgomery's segregated bus system was particularly demeaning to African-Americans. What they called back then the "colored" section of the bus was in the back of each bus. And so blacks had to enter through the front door, pay their fare, and then exit out of the front door and re-enter through the rear door. After they paid the fare, it was common for white bus drivers to drive away before they could enter the bus.

So when the white seats were full, the bus driver would enlarge the white section by displacing those in the colored section. Because Mrs. Parks was arrested, she lost her job. But her arrest was the spark that ignited the 381-day Montgomery Bus boycotts. It was the boycott that launched the civil right movement. It was the first time black communities were of one mind and were willing to challenge the system.

Black ministers in the black community immediately got together and they agreed to speak to their congregations on Sunday morning about the proposed boycott. The first day of the boycott was a total success. As one eye witness described it, "All day long it continued. During the rush hours the sidewalks were crowded with laborers and domestic works – many of them well past middle-aged – trudging patiently to their jobs and home again. Sometimes as much as 12 miles! They knew why they walked and the knowledge was evident in the way they carried themselves. And as I watched them, I knew there was nothing more majestic than the determined courage of individuals willing to suffer and sacrifice for their freedom and dignity."

At the ministers meeting, the night of Mrs. Parks arrest, was a young preacher who had just finished his doctoral thesis. The ministers were looking for a leader for this protest. The floor was opened up and nominations were made. One man stood up and said, "Mr. Chairman I want to nominate Mr. Martin Luther King as the president." The motion was seconded, carried in a matter of minutes; Martin Luther King Jr. was unanimously elected to lead the protest movement.

The motion and the vote happened so quickly that Dr. King said later in his autobiography that had he had time to think it through ... had he thought about it ... he would definitely declined. He was immediately overcome by a feeling of inadequacy. The dark clouds that surrounded him, the sheer evil that he had to contend with was overwhelming to the breaking point.

Immediately after the protest began, he started to receive threatening phone calls and letters. Sometimes there would be 30 – 40 threats a day. "We're gonna kill you. We're gonna shoot your wife. We're gonna string you up. We're gonna kill your baby."

His father ran down to see him and was in an almost constant state of anxiety. He couldn't even talk about what his son was going through without breaking down and crying. Initially he sort of laughed off the threats. This is part of the price. But a white friend talked with him and said, "Martin, there are definite plans being made to take your life."

One night about 2 months after the protest started, he settled into bed late and Corretta, his wife, had already fallen asleep. Just as he was about to doze off the telephone rang. He picked it up – another threat. A white voice on the other end of the phone, “Listen, you blankety blank, we’ve taken all that we’re gonna take from you. Before next week, you’re gonna be sorry you ever came to Montgomery.

Martin was shaken to the core. He went to the kitchen. He was ready to give up. He began thinking about how he could resign his position without appearing as a coward. He was thinking about his little girl and his wife who was asleep and who he was afraid would be taken from him. It was late at night; he couldn’t talk with anyone. He was sitting in the kitchen alone in total fear and distress. Threats of death were hanging over him. In that moment, Martin Luther King said, a voice inside of him told him that he needed to call on the One he used to hear his daddy preach about.

Sitting there at the kitchen table he said, “Lord, I’m down here trying to do what’s right – trying to take a stand for what I believe is right – but I’m weak, I’m afraid, I’m faltering, I’m loosing my courage. Everybody is looking to me for leadership. If I fall, Lord, they’re gonna fall too. I’m at the end of my power. I have nothing left. I can’t do this. I can’t do this God.”

This weekend, in preparation for what Christians know as Holy Week. It begins with Palm Sunday, goes on to Thursday evening in the Upper Room, and then Gethsemane and finally the place of the skull – Golgotha – the place of Christ’s

crucifixion, leading up to Easter Sunday. I want to talk about another man who faced evil and death threats all alone. Not in Montgomery Alabama, but 1900 years earlier in a Gethsemane.

#### Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with Him, and He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will."

Then He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with Me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done."

When He came back, He again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So He left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Then He returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Arise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Gethsemane is derived from a Hebrew word that means ‘olive press’. The place where olives were pressed for their oil. To get there from Jerusalem, the person leaves the city on its steep eastern side and descends way down into the Kidron Valley. It’s what the disciples and Jesus would have done at the deepest point of the valley. They would have crossed a little brook and then at the foot of the Mount of Olives, there was a olive orchard, perhaps with hundreds of olive trees and this olive press.

Right there in the midst of these knarled, hundreds of year old olive trees was Gethsemane. The Biblical scholar N. T. Wright points out that there were other options open to Jesus other than Gethsemane. Remember that Jesus just got done celebrating the Last Supper with His disciples, the Passover I spoke about just a few weeks ago, which forms the basis of our understanding of communion.

Jesus had just gotten done celebrating the Passover with His disciples. And in the course of that evening He announced a new Exodus that was about to take place – a liberation from our enemies was at hand. The disciples were all rallied. Jesus could have chosen that moment to fight like the other great Jewish warriors of the past like Joshua and Gideon and King David and Judah Maccabee who led the great Maccabean revolt against the Greeks about 2 centuries earlier.

He could have gathered His followers. Jesus had hundreds and hundreds of followers. He could have called down 12 legions of angels and decided to fight. Lots

of revolutionaries in Jesus' day like the Zealots were going around knifing Romans in the back. Christ could have chosen to fight.

He could have chosen the option of flight. There were religious groups in Jesus' day that taught that the Kingdom of God was just this inner spiritual thing. It was a matter of devotions and your prayers. God's call on your life was to withdraw, not to take any action. No outward manifestation, just flee into the wilderness. Jesus could have chosen the option of flight. Evil is all around us in the world, come follow me over the Mount of Olives, down into the valley by the Jordan River. We'll cross the Jordan, go out into the wilderness.

Throughout the history of the church, the church has always been tempted to fight. Let's fight fire with fire. Let's use the world's methods to beat down our enemies. Let's join a crusade and take back the Holy Land. If they curse, we'll curse. If they sue we'll sue. If they bomb our country, we'll bomb theirs.

Throughout the history of the church, the church has been tempted to fight or to flight – to withdraw into the Monasteries, to choose the way of escape. Those were the temptations facing Jesus when He was in Gethsemane. Fight fire with fire or to flee. Those were the temptations facing Dr. King in his kitchen. Let's get some guns. Let's shoot back, or just let me give up Lord. Let me withdraw.

Those are always temptations facing a person when evil swells around to run from Gethsemane, to not stay put, to not challenge evil. There's always the temptation to run from Gethsemane – the place of suffering and costly forgiveness.

Listen, everywhere we look, people are choosing one of two other options rather than Gethsemane. We see this in the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One Middle East observer said, "The problem is that both sides live by the 'eye for an eye' philosophy." You blow yourself up in a disco, we'll gonna go in with tanks and destroy 10 homes and kill 3 children in the process. You shoot 7 soldiers in cold blood– we jail 250 Palestinians - an eye for an eye.

We see it played out the whole tragedy of what in the past was known as Yugoslavia. 1389 in the battle of Kosovo, the Muslims took our territory. Then in the 1940s there was the Croats who aligned with the Nazis. In the 1990s the Serbs finally said it's our time to settle the score. It's our time to get even. An eye for an eye.

Gandhi once said, "The world will practice an eye for an eye until everyone is blind." We see it in urban areas in our country. There's a misunderstanding powered by a smart aleck remark which illicit a threat which provokes a challenge. Then you get the machismo going. Somebody pushes the other person and they respond with a punch. Then there's a knife. Then there's a bottle. Then there's a gun. In the suburbs it's the disappointment leading from an angry phone call eliciting a sharply worded e-mail followed by an even angrier e-mail followed by a lawyer's letter



followed by a lawsuit followed by an appeal ... till we quit. We flee. There're just too many problems in this situation.

Nobody could expect me to stay put in Gethsemane ... to stay in a difficult marriage. How many Americans really want to make a maximum effort for a minimum return just to stay married? To fulfill their vows? And we want maximum enjoyment and minimum sacrifice till the door is open to quit. I don't want to deal with financial setbacks, emotional or mental illness in a spouse, a demanding baby, weight gain, or all the fights. Quit! Quit whenever it's hard! That's the option always held out to you – Quit. If it's hard – quit! Quit piano lessons, quit high school, quit college, quit grad school, and quit law school. You got a problem with a family member and they're not changing, just don't talk to them ever again. Quit – Give Up. Give up on them. They're not worth it!

Quit your marriage. If church gets hard, leave it. Run from your small group. Quit on God. Did you know that the disciples of Jesus just got done sharing a Last Supper with Christ – sharing communion – in which He announced to them that there is a New Covenant. A different way of doing business. Not fight. Not flight. But staying in there in the midst of swirling evil. Working for reconciliation. Working for peace. Working for justice. You know what happens, often, to the person who stays in Gethsemane, don't you? What does the world do with people like Martin Luther King Jr.? Or Gandhi? Or Anwar Sadat of Egypt? Or Yitzhak Rabin of Israel? Or Abraham Lincoln?

Choosing to be with Christ in Gethsemane is choosing the way of dying. Maybe not physically. Very few of us are called to be Dr. King. But certainly it means dying to your right to make a different choice. Dying to your right to fight. Dying to right to flee. Often dying to your own personal needs.

What I want you to see is that Gethsemane is always a choice. As we go through this Gethsemane, it is always a choice. Jesus didn't have to be there. You don't have to stay in a tough marriage or work on your relationship with somebody in your family or in the church. You don't have to choose the way of forgiving or the way of confronting evil. There's always a choice.

One of the choices Gethsemane presents us with is a choice to be alone with God. We read in verses 36 and following that Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane and He said to them, sit here while I go over there to pray. He took Peter and the 2 sons of Zebadee along with Him and He began to be sorrowful and troubled and then He said to them, my soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.

Jesus had often gone off by Himself to pray and sometimes sent His disciples away of in a boat somewhere so He could stay behind to be with God. But in Gethsemane He asked for His disciples' presence. Stay with Me. Stay up with Me. Watch with Me and pray. There are times when we human beings desperately crave some human fellowship, some companionship. Someone by our side when we're in the hospital

right before surgery. When we're in a funeral home after a loved one dies. When we're leaving home to go off to college or to the army.

When we celebrate good times – a wedding, Christmas, the birth of a baby. We want a loved one there by our side.

You know what Gethsemane is? Gethsemane are those moments in our life when there are no other human beings present and when you choose to be utterly alone with God.

Staying with Christ in Gethsemane means choosing to be utterly alone with God. There might be other people around but they can't help. No person on earth can help. No other human being can do anything. No person has the answers. However well intentioned they are, no one can give you the comfort, the consolation, the counsel, the support. But there are times in every person's life when you are called to Gethsemane. It is the place you go when you have no place to go other than God.

Martin Luther King – in his kitchen at 2:00 a.m. – it's you in the middle of the night when you can't call anyone and you're overwhelmed with anxiety. Friend, have you ever been to Gethsemane? Have you ever been in a life situation where no one – nowhere can help you? If you haven't, I say this with all affection, but one day you're going to be there.

Have you ever been to Gethsemane? Have you been where you realize that picking up a phone, talking with a friend, going out again or busy-ing yourself with another activity is not working?

Nothing's going to work. Your situation boils down to you and God. Some of you don't ever let yourself choose to be in Gethsemane where it's just you and God. Gethsemane is you choosing. It is making the choice in your anxiety and in your fear about the future and in your grief where it should be just you and God.

What we find in Gethsemane is a Jesus that is the most human to ever appear in the Gospels. Jesus is never weaker, never more alone, never more frightened than in Gethsemane. You see Him clawing at the ground. He's writhing in agony. It says in verse 37 that He began to be sorrowful. The Greek word implies deep grief. He was overwhelmed with grief. He is hysterically crying. It says He was troubled. That word is used nowhere else in the New Testament. It implies profound, mental distress or anguish.

Luke uses the word, *agonia*, where we get the word agony. What we see in Gethsemane is Jesus wrestling with the Father's will. You can hear Jesus choking out the words, Abba. That's what it says in the gospel of Mark. People in ancient Judaism, occasionally called God, "Father." But we have no record of any Jew before the time of Jesus, ever calling God "Abba". It means "Daddy". It's so intimate – it's so familiar. There He is in Gethsemane, Abba – Daddy – take this cup from me.

Don't make me drink from the cup. The cup not only of suffering, but also the cup of wrath, the cup of God's judgment.

Have you ever prayed, Abba – Daddy – take this cup from me? Please, Lord don't let me be pregnant. Please God, I can't take it. Get me out this marriage. Abba, don't let it be cancer. Daddy, don't let them keep pushing for a divorce or a break up. Don't let my baby be sick or my loved one die. Not a birth defect. Not a spinal injury. Father take this cup from me, I can't handle it. I don't have the strength to drink from this cup, Father.

Sometimes the cup that you feel God is giving you is a responsibility. He's calling you to take a position of leadership when all you want to do is stay in the background. Abba, tell someone else to do it. Lord I can't handle it. Like Martin Luther King, Father, I'm afraid. I know the price is going to be very high. Pick someone else. I'm not a great speaker. That's what Moses said. I'm too young. That's what Jeremiah said. I've failed too many times in the past. That's what Peter said. Father, let this cup pass. Pick someone else.

You know, people in the Bible often pray for a change in God's announced will. Moses prayed in Exodus 32 for a change in God's announced will. King Hezekiah prayed in Isaiah 38, for a change in God's announced will and they got the change they asked for. But Gethsemane is choosing to do God's will when you don't get the change and when the cup is not passing.

Here is God the Father, seeing from heaven, His son, His only Son crying out in the darkness. His beloved son searching for answers, searching for comfort, searching for the Father's embrace – utterly alone. Daddy, help me. Daddy, it hurts. Daddy, I'm in pain. I'm all alone – I have no one to help me but You. Abba let me feel your love. Abba let me feel your hug. Abba, break through. Be the God of surprises, the God of miracles, the God for whom nothing is impossible. Let this cup pass.

Ken Gire points out in his wonderful book called “Moments with the Savior” – didn't Jesus teach us that if you ask your Father in heaven for bread, will He give you a stone? If you ask Him for a fish, will He give you a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him.

You know what Gethsemane is? Gethsemane means there are no good gifts. That the Father's answer to you is “No”. That despite His prayers, Jesus is going to get a stone. In the next hour he's going to be bitten by a snake. He's about to be betrayed. His closets friends will deny knowing Him. He's going to go through 6 trials that evening. He's going to be beaten. A crown of thorns will be pushed into His scalp. He'll be mocked and stripped and crucified.

So we see Jesus getting up from the ground and lifting up His hands toward heaven and making a choice. Abba. If you've decided to not give me good gifts, then I choose to take this cup from your hand. Abba, I love you more than I fear the cup. I want you more than I want my desires. I want Your will more than I want my will.

Gethsemane means **I choose You God and Your will**. If you won't remove the cup. If this cup is Your will for me, out of love for You, Abba – Daddy – I'll take it. That's Gethsemane.

Gethsemane is you say to God that you want God's will done more deeply than you want your deepest desires done. You get it? Loving God doesn't always mean you want what God wants – but you choose it anyway. This is my worst nightmare, but I choose it anyway.

The garden of Gethsemane stands as a bookend over against the loss of another garden. It is the garden that we find at the beginning of the Bible, the Garden of Eden. The garden of Gethsemane is the inevitable result of what our first parents did in the Garden of Eden. Once our first parents sinned and said to God, "Not Your will, but my will be done," the trajectory of all human history was aimed like a rifle shot at this other garden where another man would be alone with God and get down on his knees and say, "Abba, not my will, but Your will be done."

Friend, this is the only way to restore paradise – to get a little bit of that first garden back in your life – back in your home – back in your heart – back in your marriage. Any time you say with our first parents, I don't care what God says. I don't care what God's Word says. I don't care what the Bible says. I'm gonna rationalize this one away. I can always ask forgiveness later. I'm too unhappy. I can't drink this cup. Not His will, but my will be done. That will always bring into your life more separation from God and more ultimate pain and more suspicion and more distance. If you

want a little bit of peace to be restored to your heart – a little bit of that first garden to come back into your life and into this world you need to say, not my will, but Your will be done. Can you say that? Abba – Daddy, I choose the cup, this day – even though I don't want it.

What was the cup that Jesus prayed three times to have removed from Him? In verse 42, "Father, if it's not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done." What was the cup? What's the cup that Jesus prayed would be removed? For Jesus, it was most certainly in physically suffering like the beatings that He was going to face or the cross that He would be nailed to the next morning. The betrayal of His friends. The denial and desertion of His closest allies. Standing alone. But still, Jesus was always clear eyed. He was always confident in His suffering. Throughout Christian history there have been many people who have faced their death with confidence with great joy.

The cup that Jesus was being offered from the hand of the Father was not only the cup of physical suffering – awful as that was. It wasn't only the cup of emotional distress or being despised and rejected. The cup, I believe, along with people throughout Christian history, was the cup of spiritual agony of bearing the sins of the world.

Jesus was being asked to endure the judgment that our sins deserved. Throughout the Old Testament, the Lord's cup is often a symbol of His intense wrath and fury against those who sin.



It says in Psalm 75:7 & 8, “But it is God who judges. He brings one down and He exalts another. In the hand of the Lord is a cup full of foaming wine mixed with spices. He pours it out and the wicked of the earth drink it down to its very dregs.” We read in Revelation 14 about the cup. Chapter 14, verse 9 & 10, “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he too will drink the wine of God’s fury which is poured full strength into the cup of his wrath.”

Jesus was going to be identified with sinners – with you and your sins, with my sins, and with the sins of whole world. He was going to drink the cup of judgment from God’s hand that we deserve.

Jesus prayed in verse 39, “My Father if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.” Everything is possible with God, but the removal of the cup of God’s wrath was not possible. If God was going to have mercy on sinners and also completely just by judging sin, there was no other way other than Jesus drinking the cup to accomplish our salvation. The cup of the wrath of God, the cup that would turn the sky black and cause the spiritual union of the Trinity to be ripped apart, the cup that would render the Son utterly forsaken by the Father – so that we might be forgiven.

Jesus drank the cup of judgment, the cup of wrath so that nobody else on earth – not me, not you, not anyone else in history – has to drink the cup.

Friend, if you have never really accepted Jesus' bearing of sin on your behalf – if you've never come to that place of recognizing that you can be forgiven because He was forsaken, you can say, Jesus may your drinking of the cup be for me also. Forgive me.

You know, there remains a cup for us to drink. Not a cup of judgment but a cup of difficulty, a cup of pain. The Bible talks about other cups, and if you want to jot down another reference, you can look at Matthew 20:20. You know, in staying with Jesus – choosing to stay with Jesus in Gethsemane – it's really important that we Christians stop saying that if something is really hard for us it must not be God. This road is painful. This road is challenging. Therefore it must not be God.

Friend, there was a cup for Jesus that He alone could drink – the cup of judgment. But there is another cup waiting for me and for you. In a world in which evil just swirls around, there is no escape from the cup. The American version of Christianity teaches that if God is in something, it's going to be smooth sailing. The only thing we're ever going to experience is more and bigger and better. But into all of our lives God is going to put a Gethsemane.

When that happens, and you are being asked to drink the cup of pain, and you're all alone, Jesus has told us what it's going to take to be able to stand when the crisis comes. Three times He says to His disciples, "Stay here. Keep watch with Me." Verse 41 says, "watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." The Greek word for "watch" is *gregoreo* where we get the name Gregory. It literally means,

“Watch and keep on watching, never stop watching.” He says, the spirit is willing, but the body is weak. Jesus knows what we’re made of better than we do. He tells His disciples, “You’re all going to fall away” in verse 31. You’re all going to fall away because of me. You’re all going to commit apostasy. Peter objects. No, I won’t Lord. I’m not going to stumble. Jesus says, Peter, I know you’re going to deny Me. He understands the weakness of our flesh.

Friend, do you understand that when you are in Gethsemane, your best intentions to stay faithful to Jesus won’t help? When you are tempted to deny Him and to flee, your best intentions are not going to help you in Gethsemane. Peter had the best intentions. And friend, you have come away from church services in the past with the best intentions. How many times have you resolved before the Lord and said, “Never again, God,” and then you did it again. The way to hell is paved with good intentions.

Past experiences with Jesus won’t save you in the hour of crises. Peter, James & John had seen Christ transfigured on the mountain. They saw Lazarus raised from the dead. They saw a little girl raised from the dead. They saw food multiplied. They saw the blind regain their sight. They saw the deaf hear. Some of those experiences came through their own hands. Do you understand that your past experience, however phenomenal, won’t rescue you when you’re tempted to be untrue to Christ?

All the blessings on your life, all the gratitude you’ve felt in the past, all your past experience of God’s favor, when it’s hard, when it’s brutal, when the evil is swirling, the wickedness is swirling around you and your loyalties are sifted, when you are on

the knife edge of choosing your will or God's will and what you see in God's will is your choosing a cup of suffering, the only thing that will cause you to choose God's will in that case is watching and praying. Our past experiences mean nothing. Your good intentions, when you're being offered a cup of suffering, mean nothing.

Watching means instead of being asleep and spiritually dull and stuffed to the gills with entertainment, you're spiritually alert. You're in touch with the issues. Watching means that you are aware of what's at stake when you make a choice – my will or God's will. Watching means you know what's up. You know what's coming down. You know what God is doing. You know what Satan is doing. Watching means your spiritual eyes are open.

The disciples could have drunk 12 cups of coffee and still their spiritual eyes would have been closed. Watching means that you see yourself hovering between heaven and hell. When the cup is offered, you reach for it. Watching and praying, in this moment means you say, "when I'm afraid, I'm going to depend on the Lord. In this moment, when evil is swirling around me, I'm not going to try to live off yesterday's prayer or yesterday's spiritual experience today. Now, I choose to pray. Today, now, when I'm being tempted, I choose to look to Christ. Today, now, when I want to run, when I want to flee, when I want to quit, I look to You." That's what Dr. Martin Luther King did in his kitchen and he heard a word from the Lord in his Gethsemane. "Martin, stand up for righteousness. Martin, stand up for justice. Stand up for truth. And I will be with you even until the end of the world."

MLK said, "At that moment, I experienced the presence of God as I had never experienced Him before. Almost at once my fears began to go. My uncertainty disappeared. I was ready to face anything." Friend, I think that's what the Lord is holding out for you when you choose to do His will.

Let's pray.

## Choosing To Be In Gethsemane

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Rich Nathan  
March 23-24, 2002  
Matthew 26:36-46

### I. Choosing to Stay

The Options:

A. Fight

B. Flight

### II. Choosing to be alone with God

### III. Choosing to do God's will

### IV. Choosing to drink from God's Cup

### V. Choosing to stay awake and pray