

THE SOUL'S JOURNEY

Station I: Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane

Luke 22:39-46

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

Prayer/Acceptance

"I can relate to the disciples who were sleeping, unwilling or unable to be with their Lord. Unfortunately, this is familiar territory for me. But looking at and understanding Jesus' aloneness is harder perhaps because it is deeper and hurts more."

Station II: Jesus is betrayed and arrested

Mark 14:43-46

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

Betrayal

"Betrayal is above all an act of passion. It can never be an apathetic response, a deed of carelessness or ignorance, in the same way that hate is not the opposite of love, neither is betrayal. Judas makes his commitment out of passion, though we're never quite sure what has hold of his heart."

Station III: Peter denies Jesus

Luke 22:31-34

"Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." And he said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!" Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me."

Denial

"Perhaps seeing his closest friend deny him was that moment for Jesus – the moment when he felt most alone, abandoned by friends, but also a recognition that God never leaves, that God is ever-present. The same is true for us: often situations that seem hopeless can open the door to God. We give up and let God in."