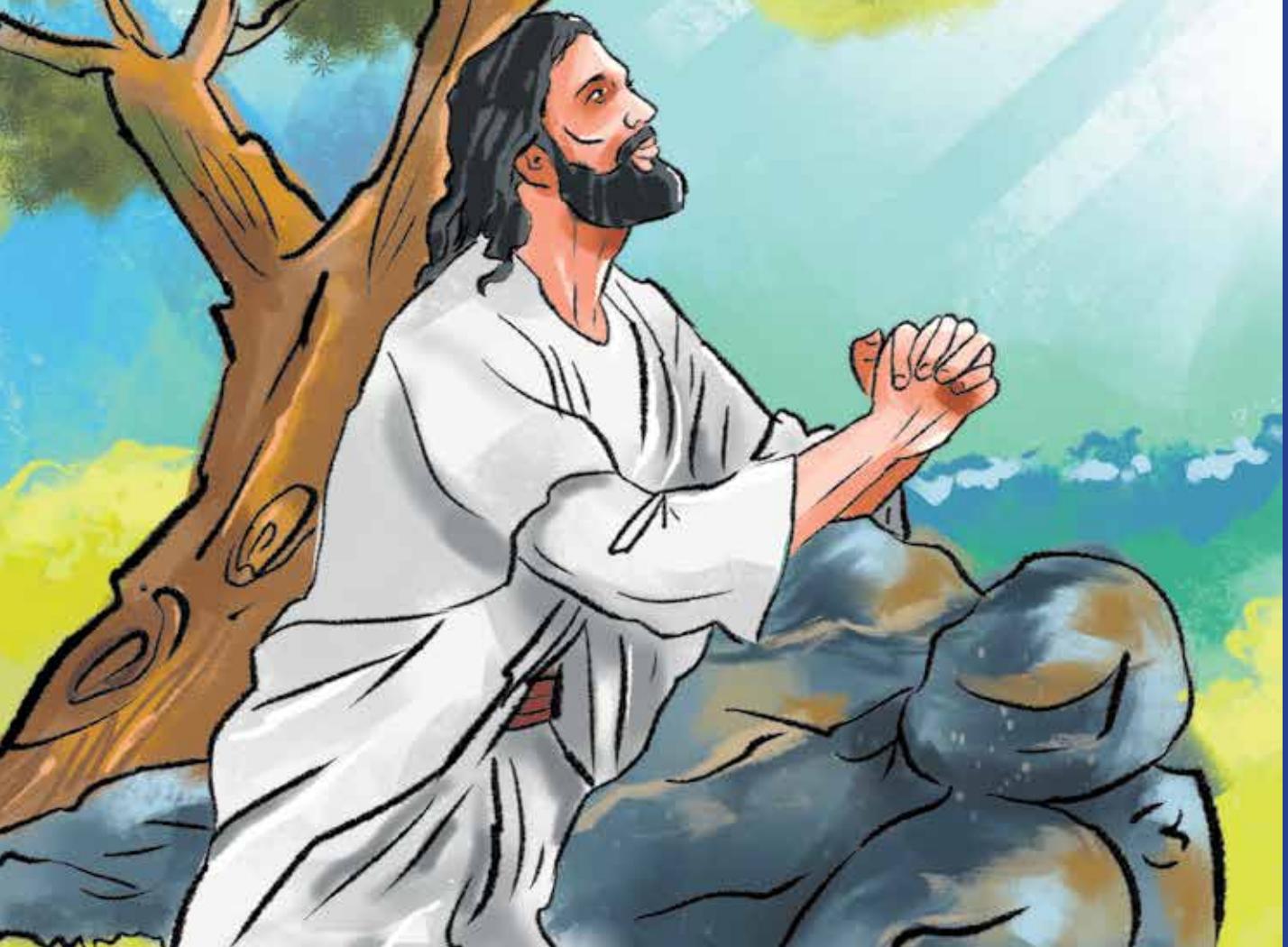


The Agony and Betrayal in Gethsemane

Eden and Gethsemane were two gardens which changed the fate of humanity. In Eden, humanity lost its relationship with God by going against His will, while in Gethsemane the Son of God restored it by accepting God's will.



Jesus warned His disciples that the shepherd would be killed and the sheep would be scattered, before He went with them to the garden of Gethsemane. Peter objected saying he will never leave Jesus, even though all the rest do. But Jesus told Peter he would deny Him three times before the cock crows.

In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed three times leaving His disciples behind, asking them to stay awake. First He asked His Father to let the cup of suffering pass from Him if possible, "not as I will, but as you will." He prayed the second time in the most revered words: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done."



The human desire and struggle to avoid pain and death is evident in the prayers. And yet, Jesus' acceptance of God's will against the promptings of His own, make Him one with His Father. Jesus prayed the third time, repeating the same words and desire. Then He woke the disciples, who were sleeping.

Then came the greatest betrayal! Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with soldiers armed with swords and followed by a crowd. He went straight to Jesus and greeted Him before kissing Him, a signal for the soldiers to arrest Jesus.

One of Jesus' disciples grabbed a sword and cut the ear of the High Priest's slave. But Jesus stopped him, saying those who take the sword will perish by the sword, meaning all those who resort to violence shall become victims of it one way or the other.

As Jesus was arrested and taken away, the disciples ran away and Peter indeed denied Him three times, proving His prophecy. After realizing that his Teacher was condemned to death, Judas out of remorse went to the chief priests and the elders. He confessed he had sinned by betraying innocent blood, and then threw away the 30 silver coins paid to him to deceive Jesus and hanged himself.

In Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's famous words, "As Adam lost the heritage of union with God in a garden, so now Our Blessed Lord ushered in its restoration in a garden." In Gethsemane, Jesus accepted His Father's will to sacrifice Himself for all human sins committed since the beginning of time.



Word of God

Mark 14:34-36

And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."



Know Now: *Cercis siliquastrum*, commonly known as the Judas tree or Judas-tree, is a small deciduous tree from Southern Europe and Western Asia which is noted for its prolific display of deep pink flowers in spring. The species was first described by Linnaeus in 1753. This species forms a small tree up to 12 m (39 ft) in height and 10 m (32 ft) in width. In Israel, the tree has a status of a protected plant. It is thought to be the kind of tree on which Judas hanged.

Book: *Agony of Jesus: In the Garden of Gethsemane* by Padre Pio (1887 – 1968) is a true treasure of spiritual insights; this book contains the remarkable meditations on the Agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane by Saint Padre Pio, the Italian Catholic priest with stigmas or wounds reminiscent of Jesus. Padre Pio's beautiful and descriptive manner of writing provides a wonderful spiritual insight into that last night of Jesus' human life.

Reading

Mon _____ Tue _____ Wed _____ Thu _____

Fri _____ Sat _____ Sun _____ **Total** _____

Pages Minutes



Explore the internet or encyclopaedias to know more about the Garden of Gethsemane. Ask your relatives if they have been to Holy Land and has seen olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane which are amongst the oldest known to science.

Bible@Home - Mark 14: 33-34

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