



Gethsemane

Part One: Betrayal

Lectio Read

Read slowly and attentively, then read it again. Immerse yourself in the scene. Circle key words and ideas. Pray that the Holy Spirit reveals something particular to you.

John 18:1-11 (NIV)

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

5 “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” 9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”

10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)

11 Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

Meditatio **Meditate**

As humans we are haunted by a hereditary inclination to pursue our own ways. We have in every way imaginable betrayed the God who made us, the One who persists with fanatical grace.

Jesus, fully human, means that God knows exactly what it is like to be where we are. In Jesus, God came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, yet he was rejected. Jesus was not only abandoned by the masses or loathed by his contemporaries, he was also betrayed by his friends; perhaps the greatest pain Jesus would endure.

The culmination of all humanity's betrayal was borne by the Son of God. It became *his* burden alone to bear on the mount of crucifixion. Such was the terrifying isolation of his Passion.

Eternally known,

ageless lover.

High born,

stooped low.

Son of splendour,

man of grief.

Betrayed.

Faithful one,

Utterly alone.

For Him,

For me.

For now,

Forever.



Oratio **Pray**

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things
and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

(Pause)

Give your Church the courage
to give up her preoccupation with herself
and to give more time to your mission in the world.
May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus
bring forgiveness to your people
and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your world the courage
to give up war, bitterness and hatred,
and to seek peace.
May the shoulders of the risen Jesus...
once scourged by soldiers,
bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

(Pause)

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife, and jealousy
in our families, neighbourhoods, and communities.
May the presence of the risen Jesus,
his body once broken and now made whole,
bring peace and direction as we live with one another.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

(Pause)

Give us the courage
to give up our selfishness as we live for others,
and to give time, care and comfort to the sick...
May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch,
and the light of his presence fill their rooms.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

(Pause)

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death
and to rejoice with those who have died in faith.
May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross,
walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony,
and walk with us and all your Church
through death to the gate of glory.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
**give us strength and hear our prayer,
here and in eternity. Amen.**

Contemplatio **Contemplate**

God's holy word is alive and active. God's word transforms us. When we approach God in humility and with expectation we are changed.

Holy Spirit, come.

Show me the depths of the Father's heart.

Let me encounter your truth.

Let me be transformed by your love.

Lead me in the ways of Christ.

I am yours.

Amen.

Ask yourself the following questions and contemplate how this reading and meditation may take shape in your life:

- *What does any of this mean for me?*
- *How can I be formed and reformed by this deeper appreciate of Christ's sacrifice?*
- *What does this look like in my life?*
- *How does it affect my relationships?*