

- There's a **classic story** about a **POLICE RECRUIT** who's given a **INTERESTING SCENARIO** for his "**INITIATIVE TEST**"
- The **police recruit** arrives at a scene & sees a **CROWD SURROUNDING TWO MEN**, who are **CLEARLY INTENT ON KILLING EACH OTHER**.
- In addition, he is **immediately GRABBED & SHAKEN BY A PANIC-STRICKEN, NEARLY INCOHERENT MAN** who is also there.
- Behind them, a **BURGLAR** is **obviously BREAKING INTO A HOUSE**.
- The **panic-stricken man** has **by now managed to get across to the officer** that **HIS WIFE IS ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH TO A BABY**, that the **AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS ARE ON STRIKE**, & **HIS OWN CAR HAS BROKEN DOWN!**
- The **police recruit** can **hardly take it all in**, before he notices that across the street, **a FIRE IS RAPIDLY SPREADING THROUGH A HOUSE**, & a **WOMAN** is already **SHOUTING FOR HELP** from a top-floor window!
- **Asked on the exam WHAT HE WOULD DO** in this given situation, **one CONFUSED RECRUIT WROTE:**
- **"TAKE OFF MY UNIFORM & MERGE WITH THE CROWD"**

- **LIFE** has a LOT of **UNEXPECTED CHALLENGES!**

SLIDE – **Tim Storey**

"When you have a SETBACK, don't take a STEP BACK, but get ready for your COMEBACK."

We've been talking about **GREAT COMEBACKS** . . .

Jesus spent His whole life **GETTING PREARED TO DIE**

- **JUST LIKE WE EACH DIE DAILY** to our OWN WILL!

SLIDE – Mark 14:32

Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He (Jesus) said to His disciples, ***"Sit here while I pray."***

- We're now getting down to the **LAST FEW HOURS** of the **EARTHLY LIFE** of **JESUS**.
- **Gethsemane** means "**OLIVE PRESS**"
- It was a **PLACE WHERE OLIVES** from the neighborhood were **CRUSHED FOR THEIR OIL**.
- It's the place the **SON of GOD WOULD be CRUSHED** for the **SINS of the WORLD**

SLIDE – Mark 14:33-34

And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to **be troubled and deeply distressed**. Then He said to them, ***"My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch."***

- Jesus **WASN'T EXAGGERATING!**

- He **WASN'T PRETENDING!**
- He **FELT LIKE DYING** -- He was **SO SAD!**
- He was about to go through **the WORST NIGHTMARE** of His life

SLIDE - Interactive Question #1 –

Q. Have you ever been so sad you thought you would die?

- A. Yes, and I am that sad right now
- B. Yes, but I am better now
- C. No, I have never been that sad

- Jesus knew **WHAT the FATHER'S WILL WAS** . . .
- He was to **BECOME the PERFECT SACRIFICE for SINS**
- He **wasn't an UNKNOWING SACRIFICIAL ANIMAL**
- . . . **NO VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES**
- He **WILLINGLY RESOLVED** to **LAY DOWN HIS LIFE**

SLIDE – Mark 14:35

He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him.

- **JESUS was OVERWHELMED!**

SLIDE – Mark 14:36

And He said, "*Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.*"

- In His **MOMENT OF DEEP DISTRESS, JESUS DIDN'T FEEL FAR** from God the Father.
- He **FELT SO CLOSE** to the Father that He **USED THE NAME "ABBA,"** a child's familiar name for "**DADDY.**"

3X- SLIDE – Response of Jesus in Garden of Gethsemane

1. COMPLETE FAITH:
"*All things are possible for You*"
2. PERSONAL PREFERENCE:
"*Take this cup away from Me*"
3. ABSOLUTE TRUST:
"*Nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.*"

SLIDE - Interactive Question #2 –

Q. Do you trust God even when you don't know what He is doing?

- A. Yes, always
- B. Yes, most of the time
- C. No, not really
- D. No, never

- Here's a **SHOCKING REALITY**:
- "Jesus was dead long before He went to the cross!"
- **NOT DEAD PHYSICALLY ... BUT DEAD TO SIN ... DEAD TO OUR OWN WILL!**
- Q. **WHAT SHOULD YOU & I BE DEAD TOO?**
- A. **ANYTHING WE THINK WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT.**

SLIDE - Interactive Question #3 –

- Q. Is there anyone or anything in your life you think you could not live without?
- A. Yes, there is
- B. Perhaps, I'm not sure
- C. In the past? Yes. Now? No.
- D. No, and there never has been

SLIDE - Mark 14:37

Then He (Jesus) returned and found the disciples asleep. "*Simon!*" He said to Peter. "*Are you asleep? Couldn't you stay awake and watch with me even one hour?*"

- Peter must have been **SHOCKED TO HEAR JESUS CALL HIM "SIMON."**
- This was the **OLD "SLEEPING SIMON," NOT the "NEW MAN - PETER."**

- Q. Is it the **SLEEPING SIMON in US** that **KEEPS US from PRAYING? . . .**
- . . . from coming to **PRE-SERVICE PRAYER?**

SLIDE - Mark 14:38-39 – Jesus continues,

"Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you. For though the spirit is willing enough, the body is weak." Then Jesus left them again and prayed, **repeating His pleadings.**

- Q. **DOES JESUS HAVE to BEG US to come & PRAY?**
- **3X - HE FOUND them SLEEPING**
- We will **NOT FULFILL our DESTINY W/O PRAYER**
- **This NEXT SEASON REQUIRES PRAYER**
- **The PRAYER ROOM SHOULD ALWAYS BE FILLED**
- **. . . RHOP SHOULD BE FILLED**
- **I BELIEVE RHOP WILL BE FILLED**

SLIDE - Mark 14:41-42

When He returned to them the third time, He said, "*Still sleeping? Still resting? Enough! The time has come. I, the Son of Man, am betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let's be going. See, MY BETRAYER IS HERE!*"

- Q. **WHY am I SO PASSIONATE about NOT MISSING DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES to INTERCEED?**

- **A. BECAUSE I HAVE MISSED THEM.**
- **Q. Do you think PETER MISSED MANY PRAYER MEETINGS AFTER THIS?**
- **MY FAILURES are the FUEL for FUTURE SUCCESS, IF I AM WILLING TO BE HUMBLLED & CHANGE.**
- **And if I'm NOT WILLING, my prayer needs to be "GOD MAKE ME WILLING!"**
- **Then JUDAS came & BETRAYS JESUS.**

SLIDE - Mark 14:47

But someone (Peter - John 18:10) pulled out a sword and slashed off an ear of the high priest's servant.

- Luke tells us that **JESUS HEALED THE DAMAGE DONE BY PETER** (Luke 22:51).
- **JESUS has had to HEAL a LOT of DAMAGE I HAVE DONE over the YEARS.**

i.e. – DEMON WENT in "BIG MIKE"

SLIDE - Mark 14:50

Meanwhile, all His disciples deserted Him and ran away.

- **PETER FOLLOWED FAR BEHIND & then slipped inside the gates of the high priest's courtyard.**
- **Some of you, who are FOLLOWING FAR BEHIND, are GOING to FIND YOURSELF WARMING YOURSELF by a FIRE w/the ENEMY of your life.**
- **Peter SAT with the GUARDS, WARMING HIMSELF by the FIRE.**
- **After His arrest, Jesus PING-PONGED back & forth BETWEEN VARIOUS OFFICIALS**
- **Jesus was FIRST taken to ANNAS, the High Priest where He was FALSELY ACCUSED . . . SPIT ON . . . & PUNCHED in the FACE**

- **An INNOCENT PERSON BEING BEATEN is ALWAYS one of the CRUELEST THINGS to BEHOLD.**
- **(ie. CONEY ISLAND after MIDNIGHT... HELPLESS MAN BEING BEATEN... INCONCIEVABLY CRUEL)**
- **. . . WE DID NOTHING BUT LEAVE.**
- **I WANT to DO SOMETHING NOW, BECAUSE SO MANY TIMES in MY LIFE I DID NOTHING.**
- **IT WAS 40 YRS. AGO & I STILL WISH I HAD DONE SOMETHING.**

SLIDE - Mark 14:66-67

Meanwhile, Peter was below in the courtyard. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest noticed Peter **warming himself at the fire**. She looked at him closely and then said, *"You were one of those with Jesus, the Nazarene."*

- **Peter found fellowship & warmth with the ungodly**

- He just wanted to seem like ONE OF THE CROWD, NOT a FOLLOWER OF JESUS.
- During this NEXT SEASON in AMERICA . . .
- . . . a lot of people are going to try & WARM THEMSELVES & TRY TO GET LOST in the CROWD.
- The CROWD will HATE CHRISTIANS . . . JUST LIKE THEY HATED JESUS..
- The CROWD HATES CHRISTIAN LEADERS . . . JERRY FALWELL . . . JAMES DOBSON . . . BILLY GRAHAM

SLIDE - Mark 14:68

Peter denied it. *"I don't know what you're talking about,"* he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed.

SLIDE - Mark 14:69

The servant girl saw him standing there and began telling the others, *"That man is definitely one of them!"*

- YOU HAVE TO DECIDE:
- Q. ARE YOU DEFINITELY ONE of THEM?

TTTTNTY&S: Q. ARE YOU DEFINITELY ONE of THEM?

- LARRY KING SHOW: to JANE FONDA, *"YOU'RE NOT one of those BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS?"*

SLIDE - Mark 14:70

Peter denied it again. A little later some other bystanders began saying to Peter, *"You must be one of them because you are from Galilee."*

SLIDE - Mark 14:71

Peter said, *"I swear by God, I don't know this man you're talking about."*

- Q. How many people today CURSE & SWEAR because they are EMBARRASSED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH JESUS?

SLIDE - Mark 14:72

And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: *"Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."* And he broke down and cried.

- Peter WEPT BITTERLY.
- We have ALL MADE PROMISES to Jesus that we HAVE NOT KEPT
- IT'S TIME to BE HUMBLLED & CHANGE!
- IT'S TIME to KEEP our PROMISES!
- IT'S TIME to STAND UP for JESUS!
- IT'S TIME to DIE WILLINGLY!

- IT'S TIME to WATCH & PRAY!
- IT'S TIME to COME to PRE-SERVICE PRAYER!
- IT'S TIME to GO to RHOP!
- IT'S TIME to WALK in ABSOLUTE TRUST!
- IT'S TIME for a GREAT COMEBACK!

LET'S PRAY!

- CALL for THOSE who are ASHAMED of JESUS.
- (HOME, WORK, SCHOOL)
- Laughing at JOKES, we SHOULDN'T.
- Staying in MOVIES we SHOULD LEAVE.
- Friendships with those who draw us AWAY from GOD
- It's TIME to STAND UP for Jesus...to PRAY...SPEAK UP