

One Hour?

by Wayne Goff

The night before Jesus' crucifixion was an **immensely stressful** time for Him. He took Peter, James and John with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane and *"began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed"* (Matt. 26:37). He asked the trio to *"stay here and watch with Me"* (v. 38). He went a little farther from them, fell on His face, and prayed *"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will"* (v. 39).

Jesus arose, returned to the three, and found them asleep! He rebuked them by saying, ***"What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"*** (v. 40). Jesus is about to undergo the horrible death of crucifixion for the sins of the world, and His closest three disciples are fast asleep! Marvin Vincent says *"It is hardly possible to convey the exact force of the Greek 'What,' thus or so. The idea is, 'are ye thus unable, or so utterly unable to watch?'"* Jesus was not asking too much of Peter, James and John.

In defense of these three disciples, let me say that they had been through much recently, and they did not understand that Jesus was about to die on the cross. They were worried for Jesus' health because they are right in the middle of "enemy territory." Jesus had previously fled to Galilee to avoid the murderous Jewish sects! And there is no greater stress than **the kind of emotional stress** under which they were suffering. Nevertheless, Jesus expected better of them, and warned them of the danger of not being able to *"watch and pray"* (v. 41).

Can you *watch with Jesus* one hour?! One hour in Bible class? One hour in the sermon? One hour on Sunday evening? One hour on Wednesday night?

If **not**, then *"watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"*! Dear reader, it's your eternal soul that is at stake!

The average college class lasts about an hour. The average length of Hollywood's blockbuster movies is 130 minutes (2 hours, 10 minutes). The average length of a major league baseball game is 3 hours, 10 minutes. An NFL football game will average 3 hours, 12 minutes. The average length of my sermons in 2015 is 41.24 minutes (including Scripture reading). Is that too long, brethren? *"What! Could you not watch with me one hour?"*

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