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WATCH AND PRAY

Jesus was speaking to his disciples after he was in the Garden of Gethsemane. He had asked them to pray for him, but instead they fell asleep. His response was, ***“what, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*** (Matthew26:40a-41.) Now there are two ways to interpret this. He could have been rebuking them for not praying but sleeping because they had many temptations. Or, he could have been asking them to pray for him because the flesh did not want to take the cup that he would have to drink. He wanted someone to pray that he would not yield to the flesh.

Now you may never have thought of it the second way, but the hour of Jesus' greatest trial was in the garden. It was here that he surrendered his will to the Father's. He asked the Father to remove the cup if it were possible. I am sure he did not look forward to taking the sin of the world upon himself through crucifixion. He needed someone to “pray him through” and “watch” that he made it.

What about us? Do we watch and pray for others, so they do not get led into temptations? Do we spend the time interceding on their behalf so that they will not make the wrong choices? So often, prayer is after something wrong was chosen, and we try to pray people out of their “mistakes” which of course are sin.

It was lonely for Jesus in that hour. It is also lonely for individuals when they are tempted. Jesus was tempted in every fashion just like we are, but he yielded to the Spirit, not the flesh. I truly believe if we prayed for people before their trials and watched over them that there would be less people that fall into Satan's traps.

I suggest we ask God daily who it is that needs this kind of prayer. Let us be diligent in praying protection and bind the enemy over souls before they fail. I truly believe it will make a difference in a world that is getting closer to the Lord's return.