



20 March 2026

ACTION!

Good Friday is two weeks from today.

After His triumphal entry Jesus told His disciples,

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly I say to you unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit.”

We know He was speaking of His death. He went on to tell the disciples,

“Now My soul has become troubled; and what am I to say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.”

(John 12:23-28)

Jesus was preparing His disciples for Him fulfilling His purpose, for the greatest event in human history. Without it we have no hope for reconciliation and life with God. There is no true Christianity without the death and resurrection of Christ. As the apostle Paul said, “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins”, and so then, if Christ was not raised from the dead “we are of all people most to be pitied” (1 Corinthians 15:17-19).

In the events before Jesus’ arrest we learn some important lessons about Jesus and the disciples. Lessons for us.

Think first of Jesus. Eternal, perfect God the Son facing not just physical death, but in His death taking the just punishment for our sins. Even the most difficult, heart-wrenching, onerous, horrifying things I can think of don’t show up on the scale of the intensity of what Jesus faced and went through for us.

What did He do?

After Jesus celebrated the last Passover meal with His disciples, they went to the Mount of Olives where Jesus prayed and told His disciples to pray. We know, as Luke tells us, they were to pray while Jesus “was praying very fervently.”

Prayer was important to Jesus. He prayed at His baptism by John the Baptist. He spent the whole night in prayer before He chose the disciples. Luke chapter 5 tells us He “would often slip away to



the wilderness and pray.” Now in Gethsemane He prayed three separate times asking the Father, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

Jesus knew and was committed to His mission to go to the cross for us. He did not try to escape, nor did He let His disciples derail Him. He acted, resolute in fulfilling the purpose for which He came to earth by staying in touch with the Father.

Do we follow the pattern of Jesus’ actions? In the routine and extreme do we stay in touch with God through prayer? Are we resolute to act to fulfill our purpose of glorifying God in all we do?

Now let’s think of the disciples. While Jesus was praying they ended up “sleeping from sorrow.” This even after Jesus told them to keep watch with Him, to keep watching and praying so they would not come into temptation.

When Judas came with a large crowd of Roman soldiers and Jewish religious leaders and the disciples saw what was going to happen, they asked Jesus, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” They were ready for action. One of them drew his sword and struck the slave of the High Priest, cutting off his right ear. Jesus said, “Stop! No more of this!” Then He touched the slave’s ear and healed him.

Jesus had told the disciples He was going to Jerusalem to die, but yet they attempted to derail the mission. Their commitment to Jesus, sorrow, and fear of what could happen to Him and them that night were involved in their response. Yes, they were ready for action, but not for what Jesus called them to do. They had not prepared, gained wisdom and strength through prayer. They acted out of the natural not the supernatural.

What about us? Are we prepared for what may come our way, what does come our way? How do we respond to opposition to Christian faith, and to us? Do we have a pattern of preparing and responding with prayer and a clear, steadfast vision of our purpose, of what Jesus calls to be and do?

Pastor Lyle