

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Culmination of the Ministry

The Testing of Peter (Cont.)

And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the Mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

And when he was at the place, he said unto them. Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and kneeled down, and prayed.

Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow.

— Luke 22:39-45.

The disciples were sleeping from sorrow. They were sorrowful because they were not yet able to reach that high place wherein the Master was endeavoring to lead them.

"His sweat was, as it were, great drops of blood falling to the ground." One of the never-ending wonders of the Bible is that deep occult truths are concealed within a few words. The Transfiguration depicts the transformation effected through the power of spirit; Gethsemane is the same power in its effect upon the body. The blood is "a most peculiar essence" and is the medium for the operations of the Spirit in the body. The blood of the most advanced of the new race will be a gaseous light-substance. Its development depends upon the manifestation of love, harmony, unity, and fellowship among men.

John was looking far into the future when he said: "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." The coming of the Light is dependent upon the manifestation of brotherhood and fellowship. The generation and concentration of power through the association of man with man and nation with nation in harmony of thought,

unity of purpose, each for all and none for self, would establish a rhythm within the body of the Earth that would bring about such transformations that the New Heaven and the New Earth would be brought into manifestation here and now. The Christ was instructing His Disciples in the inner workings of these powers of the spirit.

Upon man himself depends the realization of the light of that glad, new day, when the Earth and its humanity shall know the holy joys of Resurrection time. Without the Crucifixion the wondrous mission of Christ would have remained unfulfilled. The Gospels all make mention of this fact.

But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? — *Matt. 26:54* See also *Mark 14:49*, *Luke 22:42, 43*, and *John 18:11*.

Each of the Gospels represents a different phase of spiritual development; therefore, many of the statements generally considered contradictory are found to be simply varied treatments of identical truths. Both Matthew and Mark state that all the Disciples fled when the Christ was imprisoned. The Christ Himself says: "Sleep on now and take your rest, behold the hour is at hand when the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Since the Disciples represent attributes of the Spirit to be awakened within man, at a certain stage they are asleep and unable to aid in the liberation of the imprisoned Christ.

Luke states that Peter, the power of faith, followed Him afar off.

See *John 18:15-18*.

The Christ, in foretelling the betrayals of Peter and Judas, was describing the failures and weakness of every aspirant who endeavors to walk the way of true Christian discipleship.

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