

## Leaders Guide 8: Let Not Your Heart be Troubled

### 1. Suggested Ice breaker: When I wish I had listened more

2. **Prayer time:** "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—<sup>36</sup>lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" Mark 13: 35-37. Watch means being alert both to opportunities to serve God and resisting the allurements of Satan.

### 3. Sharing from the week

### 4. Read for This week: John 14-17 and Desire of Ages 73 and the background

### 5. Questions for Discussion

- a. Share about a crucial conversation and what it has meant to your life.
- b. How sincere was Peter when He said, "I will lay down my life for Thy sake?" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. Would Christianity be a powerful religion if there were no second coming, resurrection or eternal life with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. Share the ways the Holy Spirit is an encourager, comforter and empowerer in your life and journey with Christ. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e. Yesterday you met a person who said its no use, I just can't overcome the destructive tendencies in my life. What might you say to them to be an encouragement? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f. Think of the words of Christ to His disciples about the vine and branches; The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched divinity. Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is accepted in the Beloved. How would these words have encouraged the disciples? DA 675 How do they help you and I today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- g. In John 17 we have the prayer of Jesus for Himself, His disciples and His followers down through time. Discuss the impact of this prayer to us today by highlighting these three aspects of His prayer
  - i. Verses 1-4; Discuss what it means to glorify God as Christ did to His Father.
  - ii. Verses 5-19; Sometimes we feel it important as Christians to separate from the world yet Christ prayed " I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. John 17:15. What does it mean to be in the world but not of the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. Verses 20-26; How can we experience this part of Christ's prayer, "And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." John 17: 26 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Background

Thursday— From the Last supper to His trials (Starts the day in the Mount of Olives and ends with a night of trials mostly at Caiaphas' palace)

As I embark on this part of the story in the countdown toward Calvary, it seems appropriate to pause and thank Jesus for all He has done to provide for our salvation. "Thank You Jesus for your pain and death on our behalf!"

I will first give a chronology of the events of the day (Times are suggestion, not known exactly)—then have some devotional comments.

Chronology of Thursday's events--Mid-afternoon: Preparation for Last Supper. 6 pm: Last Supper: Preceded by Jesus washing their feet, they sang Psalms 113-118 at this event; Following the supper on the way to Gethsemane He gave the passionate messages and prayer recorded in John's gospel (John 14-17)—Judas left after the supper to betray Jesus); Perhaps around 10 am they arrive in Gethsemane and Jesus prays His most agonizing prayer asking His disciples to pray with Him. Around 12 midnight: Judas and the mob capture Jesus and take him to trial—the disciples flee; around 1-2 am the appearance before Annas occurs where Jesus' face is slapped; Trial before Annas and Caiaphas and other Sanhedrin members 2-3 am; (During the night Peter denies Jesus three times outside Caiaphas's palace. Today a bronze statue is there picturing Peter in denial); a night appearance before the Sanhedrin where religious leaders seek to form a basis for condemnation 3-4 am; then just after the break of dawn 5-5:30 am, another meeting with the Sanhedrin—they condemn Him for blasphemy (Saying He claimed to be the Son of God). The reason for this second meeting is that no trials were to be allowed at night where death might be a penalty.

Judas left three meetings to negotiate with religious leaders on the betrayal—Saturday night, Tuesday night and Thursday night. How could he have been in fellowship with Jesus and the other disciples during the day while planning betrayal at night?—sin leads to strange behavior.

In the garden of Gethsemane, the disciples (Peter, James and John) fell asleep during Jesus greatest moments of agony in prayer. Jesus said, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" Perhaps during this unusual time of Covid 19 when we have more time than usual at Easter, we could spend time reading and praying through the accounts surrounding Calvary in the gospels and even the book *Desire of Ages*: Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 19-21; DA 685-795 (Free Online).