

(1) What do you make of the graphic and intense language used to describe what Jesus was feeling in Gethsemane (“grieved,” “distressed,” “deeply grieved,” “agony,” and “very distressed”)? What does this tell you about what was happening there? What does this tell you about his human nature?

(2) There are several theories about why Jesus initially prayed that, if possible, the cup be removed from him. What is the “cup” and why did he pray this?

(3) What do you think Jesus was thinking and feeling when one of his disciples, Judas, betrayed him with a kiss? Have you ever been severely betrayed by someone you thought you could always count on? How have you responded to it?

(4) How do you account for the fact that when Jesus said, “I am he”, the soldiers fell back to the ground? What was happening here? What incidents and texts earlier in John’s gospel help you make sense of this?

(5) Think about the words of the hymn:

“It was for me in the garden, he prayed ‘Not my will, but Thine,’
He had no tears for his own grief, but sweat drops of blood for mine.
Oh, how marvelous, Oh, how wonderful, and my song shall ever be,
Oh, how marvelous, Oh, how wonderful, is my Savior’s love for me.”

In what ways does our Lord’s experience in Gethsemane demonstrate his love for you?