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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Praying Through Mark 14:32-52

Series: Getting In on the Good News
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Central Passage

Mark 14:32–42 (NIV) — **32** They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." **33** He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. **34** "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." **35** Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. **36** "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." **37** Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? **38** Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." **39** Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. **40** When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. **41** Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. **42** Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Central Thought: We get in on the Good News when we imitate Jesus' practice of passionate, desperate prayer, seeking and submitting to the will of the Father in our darkest hour and relying on his grace to see us through the trial to a new day.

We persevere in prayer because...

- ❖ Jesus can relate to our deepest anguish and our most desperate fears.

Isaiah 53:3 (NIV) — **3** He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

- ❖ We can be completely honest and totally vulnerable with our heavenly Father – our Daddy (Abba).

Psalms 31:9–10 (NIV) — **9** Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief. **10** My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

- ❖ "Praying through" enables us to know and submit to God's will, and steels our will to face every trial with faith and courage.

Acts 4:29 (NIV) — **29** Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

- ❖ Now the Spirit of Jesus is praying with and for us and helping us to stay awake!

Romans 8:26–27 (NIV) — **26** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. **27** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Romans 8:28 (NIV) — **28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.