

This week we began to wrestle with a simple question ... “what does it mean to watch and pray?” Throughout scripture we find the idea of watchfulness being married to prayer and vice versa. Let's consider the significance of this combination and its implication for our lives.

Sermon Outline:	Suggested Discussion Questions:
<p>Text – Mark 14:32-51</p> <p>Key thought – Watch AND Pray.</p> <p>Watching without prayer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will produce: fear, despair, hopelessness, anxiety. <p>Praying without watching.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will become: ritualistic, detached, boring, without passion, laborious. <p>Taught to pray with head down and eyes closed.</p> <p>The best hockey players always keep their head up.</p> <p>Don't pray with your head down! (relax ... it's a metaphor)</p> <p><u>If we fail to watch and pray:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We <u>miss</u> the moment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disciples didn't realize the magnitude of the moment. 2. We are left with <u>our</u> perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We view the situation through our lens 3. We react based on what we <u>see</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We respond in anger or fear. <p><u>If we are willing to watch and pray:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We <u>recognize</u> the moment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus acknowledged the moment he was in and took it to his father in prayer. 2. We have <u>God's</u> perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We view our situation through His lens 3. We react in <u>faith</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus went into the garden under the weight of the moment, but came out fully surrendered to the will of the Father. <p>Watch and pray.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defensive Drivers ... drive with their head up (watchful and reactive). Share a driving story from your past when perhaps you were driving with your head down. • Watching (perceiving) without praying can be dangerous. Discuss how what you are seeing could be coupled with prayer. What kind of difference could this make for you? • Most people find prayer to be difficult at times. How do you think your prayer life would change if you knew what was really at stake? Share an example from your own life. • Have you ever missed a significant moment because you were not watching? Explain. • Nathan said, “Battles of the will must be fought alone.” Have you ever found yourself wrestling with God in a battle of the will? Could anyone help you? • Nathan said, “Let a few people watch the battle.” We want to hide our battles & struggles, but sometimes it is this very thing that others need to see so they will know how to fight and win. Do you agree? • Do you believe that watchfulness in prayer can result in: us recognizing key moments, having God's perspective, and reacting in faith? Have you ever experienced this? <p>Additional Reading / Devotions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be watchful in prayer. (Ephesians 6:18; 1 Peter 4:7) • Jesus only does what he sees the father do. (John 5:19)