

The Holy Land Season One: Direct Access

Scripture

- **Matthew 24:2**

Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another...

- **John 4:21-23**

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

- **Matthew 26:36**

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.” And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.” Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

Other Scriptures

- Acts 9:1-9
- Revelation 3:20
- I Timothy 4:8

Main Points

- The Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.
- We have direct access to the Father through Jesus.
- Because we have received Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we have direct access to the Father.
- We need an encounter with Jesus.
- If you seek Jesus, you will find Him.

- The Christian experience is about truth and obedience.
 - Jesus did not operate in His feelings, but in truth.
 - Jesus continued to be obedient even through hardship.
 - We have to continue to be obedient even when we don't feel like it.
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- We can't get strong unless we continue to walk with God, even through hard times.
 - If we choose to live by the Spirit and not the flesh, we are going to be blessed.
 - Give God the first of your:
 - Talent
 - Treasure
 - Time
 - Prayer is simply reaching out to God, but it can take many different forms, and changes with seasons of life.
 - Lessons from Gethsemane:
 - We need to obey the Father even when we do not feel like it.
 - If we want to get strong, we are going to have to pray.
 - Is Jesus calling you to prayer?
 - Prayer is simply reaching out to God.
 - Singing
 - Reading the Word
 - Writing
 - Reaching out to Him in some way.

Discussion Questions

1. Rabbi pointed out that the empty tomb was not enough to convince or convert the disciples about Jesus: They needed an encounter with the risen Lord. Have you had such an encounter with Jesus, making Him the one you choose to follow? Take a moment to consider and write about your experience with Him.

2. Just as an encounter with Jesus is needed in our experience, experience alone is not enough. The life of a disciple is about truth and obedience, and God has so much more for those who choose to follow Him. His chief desire is to change us to be like Him. Happiness is not His goal, but transformation is. What are some areas that you would need to lay down on His alter in order to be a fully mature in Him? Be specific. What are some feelings you expect to have to battle in order to do this?

3. How did Jesus model this for us?

4. Take inventory of your prayer life. Have you established a first- fruits of your day, time to pray? Write about this and putting aside comfort, establish this in your life today.