

Relief of the Sleeping Disciples in the Garden of Jesus' Suffering and Resurrection

*When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples,
He found them sleeping from sorrow.
Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep?
Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."* Luke 22:45-46 NKJV

Canaan in the Desert
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Dear Friends,

As current events seem to overwhelm us, the scripture of the sleeping disciples comes to mind. Things seemed to be swirling out of control for them that fateful night of Jesus' passion and they were found "sleeping from sorrow." So it is today when the daily news seems to go from "bad to worse": a nuclear Iran; lies and deception in media reports; a devastating oil spill in the Gulf; rising tensions in the Middle East which threaten the existence of Israel; natural disasters and the escalating conflict over the Arizona illegal immigration law. It is easy to become "paralyzed" in our prayer life – are we, too, sleeping from sorrow? Jesus gives us the proper response – we must not retreat in fear and paralysis, but rather press in and pray, lest we fall into temptation. WATCH AND PRAY!

In her booklet, *Prayers in preparation for the near future* Mother Basilea, with prophetic foresight, helps us to prepare for the challenges we are facing today. The following is adapted from the booklet:

The hour has come to prepare. Jesus in His great love for His own repeatedly sought to prepare them for the coming trials. In three announcements of His sufferings, He indicated to His disciples that the agonizing hour of His crucifixion was approaching. Likewise, with His words about the sufferings of the end times, He wants to summon us today to prepare (Matthew 24:9ff).

How can we prepare ourselves?

First, by facing up to the coming hour of trial and not shutting our eyes to the facts. Jesus yearns to warn especially us, His own, so as to prepare us and help us before it is too late. Above all, by prayer, in the hour of affliction, only he will be strong who now prays much. The best part of our time should go to prayer, if necessary, at the expense of sleep, personal interests and hobbies. "Watch and pray!" said Jesus to His disciples in Gethsemane, and the Bible tells us that Jesus Himself "prayed more earnestly" (Luke 22:44). Only in prayer can we completely surrender our will to Him in the assurance that He will not let us be tempted beyond our strength. When we have struggled through to the point where we can say, "Thy will be done," our hearts will be immersed in peace. This will make us strong in the hour of trial.

The prayer of dedication, however, is inseparably linked with trusting - in Jesus to whom the wind and waves, yes, everything is subject – in Jesus, who is the mighty Victor and Helper.

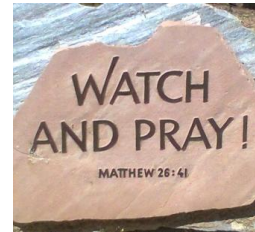
In these times of trial, it is essential that Jesus Christ lives in us and that we carry Him in our hearts... Jesus promised "If a man loves Me, I will make My home with him" (see John 14:23).

In other words, He lives in the hearts of those who love Him. As the One who has all power in heaven and on earth lives in us, we are strong - through Him. As the One who is eternal Love lives in us we are secure in His love, and our fears are banished. When the One who is everlasting joy lives in us, not even the deepest suffering can drown this joy.

Let us watch and pray for this first love, this bridal love for Jesus...

In these days, let us also remember Israel and intercede for her. Please join us in the prayer at the end of this letter. It is a crucial hour for our elder brother, yes, a very crucial hour to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem." May we in some small way be a comfort for God in these days, and lie humble and prayerfully before Him when He has to begin His judgments upon our sinful world.

May the Lord not find us sleeping in these crucial days. May He help us to be watchful and pray, as we see these things begin to happen, let us be lifting up our heads, for Jesus, our redemption is drawing near.



Short prayers of faith:

- *My Lord Jesus, I believe You are with me, helping me. And in the time of great affliction You will strengthen me.*
- *My Lord Jesus, I trust in You. You are my Shield and Your angels are watching over me. And I know that my Father will carry me through.*
- *Also for Israel: Father, You see how Your people Israel are hated by all those who hate You. You suffer with Your people. Father, Your people are surrounded by mortal enemies. We pray that their fear will not cast them into despair, but cause them to seek Your face in prayer.*

For more of Mother Basilea's encouraging messages for our times, please choose from the following titles on this theme: *Nature Out of Control; Patmos – When the Heavens Opened; Strong in the Time of Testing; Yours is the Victory and Majesty; Hidden in His Hands; Prayers in preparation for the near future and Prayers for Israel.*

To place an order via email: cid@integrity.com

Uniting with you in prayer as we observe Independence Day, may our prayers help to bring our nation into a greater dependence on our God.

With warm greetings,
The Sisters at Canaan in the Desert

The following websites have also proven useful for more detailed and current information with regard to the events mentioned above:

www.OneNewsNow.com

<http://action.afa.net>

www.silencingChristians.com

www.actforamerica.com

www.GetAmericaPraying.com

www.azpolicy.org

www.ifapray.org

www.israelunitycoalition.org

www.arizonarighttolife.org