





They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.' He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,  
You who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see;  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

2 Follow to the judgment hall;  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
O the worm-wood and the gall!  
O the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn of Him to bear the cross.

3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb  
There' adoring at His feet,  
Mark the miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete:  
"It is finished!" Hear the cry;  
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

4 Early hasten to the tomb  
Where they laid his breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom;  
Who hath taken Him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes:  
Savior, teach us so to rise.

There are only a couple of places in Jerusalem where you can say, "this is the spot." The tomb of Jesus may be in the Holy Sepulchre or it may be in the garden tomb. Mary is buried in Jerusalem and Ephesus or she may not be buried at all. The place of the Last Supper might be down a certain alley behind a new apartment building. But really you are standing at least thirty feet above where the supper took place even if you are in the right location. 2000 years of history is lot of layers.

The one location that seems immune to this in Jerusalem is the Church of All Nations. The Church of All Nations is the third church built on the site; the current building is less than a century old. Yet, it was built on the foundation a 12<sup>th</sup> century church that the crusaders built on a 4<sup>th</sup> century sanctuary built in the time of Constantine. The certainty is the rock. Each of the churches built around the rock where tradition holds Jesus prayed on the night of his arrest.

The Church of All Nations is within the Garden of Gethsemane. The garden is in the low spot between Bethany and the Lion's Gate of the old city of Jerusalem. It is the turning point of the walk Jesus made on Palm Sunday.

Part of your pilgrimage will be a walk of approximately a mile. We will start on the Mount of Olives, near the village of Bethany. Bethany is a Hebrew name meaning "the house of the poor." When Jesus stayed in Jerusalem he is said to have been the guest of Mary and Martha and Lazarus who were poor folk who lived in Bethany.

The walk down the hill is lined with the largest Jewish cemetery in the world. About halfway down the Mount of Olives we will see a small church known as Dominus Flevit, "the Lord wept." Here you can linger and gaze at the old city now dominated by the grand Dome of the Rock. When we reach the bottom of the hill there will be a series of very, very old olives trees. Our tour guide may suggest

they are indeed from the time of Jesus or our tour guide may suggest that less scrupulous tour guides make such claims.

At the Church of All Nations I would encourage you to look at the picture I have provided. This picture will be in bronze and on display. Use this one and see if you can get a glimpse of the three churches. There are vestiges of the earlier two still present. Again, this is perhaps one of the few places in Jerusalem where no one argues. This is the spot of the prayer on the night of his arrest.

The church itself is kept very dark as you can see in the stained-glass image above. The darkness is meant to embody the depth of despair Jesus experienced as well as the tradition that it was night. The key to the building is the rock in the floor. Other churches have such rocks to signify the spot where something in the life of Jesus transpired.

Perhaps a question you can consider now as you prepare is this: how many sanctuaries have you had in your heart? By sanctuary I mean the shape and definition of your faith. For many of us our lives of faith have had different times or seasons. There may have been a youthful sanctuary in your faith journey. There may have been a sanctuary that was not built. The Church of All Nations was destroyed by earthquake and neglect. Has the sanctuary of your heart experienced a time of ruin?

The life we live is not always a straight line. There are fits and starts; we may wander a bit. And then there may be long stretches of certainty or security. The sanctuaries of our heart may be grand or meager, embellished or Spartan. Consider for a time what does the sanctuary of your heart look like?

There are a few other places in the world where pilgrims have gone for centuries. There are roads, like the King's Highway that runs from Cairo to Damascus, that have been in operation for thousands of years. Yet, there is no place like Jerusalem in terms of the centuries of devotions. For it is not just the places of Christian devotion that have been the draw. You will bump shoulders with Muslims pilgrims heading for the Dome of the Rock and of course the Jewish pilgrim making his or her way to the Wailing Wall. There is so much to see and consider. But remember this, we are all looking to find God in the sanctuary of our heart.