

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”
Luke 22:39-46 (ESV)

From the moment Jesus rode into Jerusalem, he was faced with criticism, confrontation, challenges, and covert assassination plots. He’d invaded a hornet’s nest, and all hell was summoning against him. Besides battling external forces another battle was raging within him. This is not only true of Jesus, but we too are also continually faced with battles on two fronts, external and internal, outward and inward. By the time the sun rose the following Sunday, Jesus had won them both.

Jesus took his disciples to a quiet spot, but inside His and their hearts and minds things were anything but quiet (Maybe you can identify with that, I sure can). There in the olive garden, Jesus in his humanity (always remember he is both God and man) faces the same inner battles we face, albeit on a scale none of us can comprehend, the weight of all humanity’s sin, including yours and mine, resting on him (1 Peter 1:24).

Luke’s snapshot of the inner battles fought in the Garden of Gethsemane focuses on temptation, competing wills, agony and anguish, and sorrow and grief. All of these, according to Jesus, needed prayer, but He’s the only one praying. What’s your first move when things are stressful, overwhelming, confusing, exhausting, pulling you in different directions, more than you think you can bear, tearing at your soul? We learn different strategies, ranging from escaping (the disciples slept) to numbing ourselves, and frantic searches for advice from friends and experts. Jesus and scripture, however, consistently direct us to prayer, to seek God, crying out for His wisdom, help, peace, strength, and will.

The battle with temptation. Although temptations might come from both without and within, the battle with temptation is won or lost within. Jesus could have run, stooped to the level of his enemies, and used his power contrary to God the Father’s will, but his refusal to embrace any of these options was won with prayer on the battlefield of his heart and mind.

The battle of wills. Jesus taught his disciples and us to pray, **“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”** Matthew 6:9-10 (ESV) because He knows us, is familiar with our stubborn hearts, and our struggle with obeying God’s will, especially when God’s will is difficult, encompasses suffering and pain, doesn’t cater to our thirst for happiness and comfort, and requires self-denial. There on his knees, with anguish of soul, Jesus surrendered what he wanted and committed himself to what he knew to be God’s will. Seeking and surrendering ourselves to pursue the honor and will of God is the first priority and great battle of prayer.

The battle of agony, of anguish. How much pain and turmoil does God expect us to bear? How deeply does He expect us to care? Why the unequal distribution? When is it someone else’s turn to be kind, generous, to care and give a damn? When will doing the right thing pay off? “Lord, release me from this burden, please!” This battle is lost if we don’t fight the battle of wills like Jesus, but did you notice, God dispatched an angel to strengthen Jesus, and as a result, Jesus was enabled to pray **“more earnestly,”** the battle of agony and anguish was won.

The battle of sorrow, of grief. Jesus was **“a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief”** Isaiah 53:3, and if we are serious about following and serving Jesus, if we want to have his heart, if we want to love like him, and be his hands and feet, we will also be acquainted with sorrow and grief. What the disciples sorrowed over was vastly different than what Jesus grieved over, that’s not to belittle their sorrow, it was real, it was wearing them out. They sorrowed over the fact that Jesus told them he was leaving, and their Messianic dreams would evaporate with him being gone. Jesus was **“deeply grieved”** Mark 14:43, to the point of sweating blood, but his sorrow and extreme grief were over the sin and unbelief of mankind. The disciples’ grief caused them to close their eyes, Jesus’ sorrow caused him to fight on his knees for sinners like you and me, he still does, **“He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them”** Hebrews 7:25 (NIV).

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



Lord Hear Our Prayers

PRAYER REQUEST

Antonio Villegas, Rachel's Health,
our Country's leadership, Our Pastor Search Team
and those dealing with addiction(s).

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,
Farney, Peter, Jimmy, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Noah Martin,
John Michael Chavez, Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker,
Brian Sula, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,
Christopher Sula, Dylan Briggs, Jacob Bowden

CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and/or e-mail **Judy Mahar** at ldpbcprayer@gmail.com with your prayer requests.

Church Board Members:

Hans Frei - Pastor , Richard Mayes - Head Deacon ,
Chuck Arndt, Barb Deibler, Jerry Lyman,
Sarah Storey, April Wilcox



VBS: Magnified!

Coming to Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church

July 21 - 25

Volunteers needed!

Please sign up in the foyer

For more information: Susie (209) 247-9234

Centrifuge Youth Summer Camp

Date: July 7th - 12th

Location: Jenness Park

Cold Springs, CA

For more information Contact

Matt & Wendy Garcia: (209)765-6914

APRIL Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesday's @ 6:00 PM
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages @ 7:00 PM
- Food Ministry - 1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday 9-11 AM
- Women's Ministry - Wednesday's @ 10:00AM
- GriefShare: Wednesday's, March 5th - April 23rd @ 6:30 PM
- Chicken Foot - Thursday's @ 1:00 PM
- Bunco: Monday, April 14th @ 11:30 AM

Fellowship Refreshments were provided by:
"Dennis's Class"

Thank you

Next week "Beverly & Youth Class" is up!!

"2025 Tanzania Mission Trip"

November 2nd - 18th

(See Pastor Hans for further details)

If you notice someone has been absent from Small Group or Worship Services for awhile, why not call them or stop by to let him/her know that they have been missed. A kindness that



Giving

March 30, 2025

Offering:
\$3,744.00

Facilities:
\$1.00

Food:
\$56.00

Books:
\$1.00

VBS:
\$50.00

Attendance:
106

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:
9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:
10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:
6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday
Food Ministry:

9:00 AM -11:00 AM

Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM
GriefShare - 6:30 PM

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

Saturday: Youth Hang-Out 6-9 PM

Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church
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Give

Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6:38 (NIV)



Yearly Bible Reading Plan - 2025

April 7th - April 13th

DAY 1 - John 1-2
(Psalms 35)

DAY 2 - John 3-4
(Psalms 36)

DAY 3 - John 5-6
(Psalms 37)

DAY 4 - John 7-8
(Psalms 38)

DAY 5 - John 9-10
(Psalms 39)

DAY 6 - (Psalms 40)
DAY 7 - (Psalms 41)

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.