

TEXT: MATTHEW 26:36-46

TITLE: OUR DAY/OUR ONLY DAY

INTRODUCTION

Do you suppose that if the disciples knew that this would be their last opportunity to minister with Jesus, that they would have made sure that they stayed awake?

Allow me to ask this question, Do you believe that we're living in the end-time? Could Jesus return any moment?

Well, this is our day to minister, our only day. God, help us to stay awake!

T.S....If we're not careful, the importance and urgency of today can slip quickly into just another "ordinary day."

What can we do to keep spiritually alert?

I. NEVER ALLOW CLOSENESS TO ROB US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TODAY

EXPL... The disciples had been with Jesus on many occasions when He would pray; however, this time was very, very special.

APPL... We've done this before...Our closeness and intimacy has robbed us of our urgency, our aggressiveness, our enthuse

T.S... Just because we can say, "Been there, done that," doesn't give us the day off.

**T.S... Never before has there been a time in history for
God's people to be alert for ministry.**

II. NEVER AGAIN WILL WE HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS.

**EXPL... The disciples would all agree that they let the
opportunity of a life-time slip through their
hands.**

**APPL... We have a great opportunity to minister today -
God, help us not let it slip through our hands.**

**ILL... Oasis of love: The Lakewood Church in Houston,
Texas: John Osteen**

III. NEVER STOP SERVING EVEN IF IT HURTS

EXPL... Temptation to serve self is so strong. (v. 41)
*"Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation:
the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

**APPL... We are a self-serving generation - just look at
your priorities.**
**This generation spends more time at Little League,
pursuant of hobbies, and simply playing than any
other generation in history.**

APPL... Just listen to this heartbreaking statistic:
20% give 80%
30% give 20%
50% give absolutely nothing or only a tip.

**APPL... We need a spiritual revival to begin right here -
Are you ready?**

T.S... Listen to Jesus: (v. 39)

"And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

God, it's not about me; it's what you want.

IV. NEVER WILL JESUS LEAVE US ALONE

EXPL...Jesus kept coming to the sleeping ones; He will never stop coming to meet our needs.

EXPL... Jesus will not challenge us to do anything and leave us alone to accomplish it. He is with us to the end.

ILL... During the reign of Oliver Cromwell, the government ran out of silver with which they made coinage. Cromwell sent men out to find silver.

They returned to report that the only silver they could find was in the statues of the saints in various cathedrals in the kingdom.

"Good!" replied Cromwell, "We'll melt down the saints and put them back into circulation!"

T. S... God, turn up the heat so your saints will get back into circulation.

CONCLUSION

Jesus gave His life that others might be saved. Are you willing to give Him your love response?