

Inspirational Moments #4-5

Thought: What Is The Next Thing?

written November 2000, revised October 2004

Special Reading: Matthews 26 ; Oswald Chamber, *My Utmost for His Highest* ,
(February 18 Daily Devotional Classic of); Barbour Publishing, Inc. Uhrichsville,
Ohio, 1963

Scripture: Colossians 4:5, *Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. (NAS)*

Matthews 26: 38, 40, *Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death: remain here and keep watch with me." 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?"*

To trust God absolutely and rest on the bosom of Christ.

Missed opportunities pass our way often as it did with the disciples when they slept instead of staying awake as Jesus prayed (Matthew 26). Have we missed sharing the Good News that Jesus lives, whatever the reason? They missed the chance to watch and pray with our Lord. But what did Jesus do? He said, *"Rise, let us be going."* (Matthew 26:46)

He said this at the time that Judas was coming to betray him. Imagine in the midst of a time when Jesus grieved, he said let's go. I believe these scriptures can remind each of us how easily we can fall asleep when danger is so near. But our Lord by his actions in that "Garden of Gethsemane" leaves a Legacy for us to pray and not sleep; to rise and go.

He is encouraging us to go on, despite our failure. He is encouraging us to go on despite our despair; to go on despite our inaction and guilt. He wants us to trust Him absolutely and move on to the next level. Jesus wants us to move and not be stuck because of the frailty of our flesh. He said in Verse 41... "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." He admonished us to "watch and pray." Jesus wants us to move on to the next level. If those that walked and talked with the Lord slept in his presences, what makes you think you are so strong you won't fall asleep sometime?

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Prayer: Lord help us to forgive ourselves when we do wrong. Help us to remember you and your words to us as we ask your forgiveness. “Rise let us be going” (Matthew 26:46.) Thank you for your love, thank you for your grace and mercy, which is ever extended to us. Amen.