

# The War at Easter

4.21.19

**Luke 22:39-46** <sup>39</sup>Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup>On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” <sup>41</sup>He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup>“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” <sup>43</sup>An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup>And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. <sup>45</sup>When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. <sup>46</sup>“Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

## I. A Common Infirmary

## II. An Attack from Hell

### A. Darkness

1. Doubt
2. Discouragement
3. Despair

### B. Questions

1. Difficult to Understand
2. Difficult to Defend
3. Difficult to Embrace
  - a) Counter-intuitive responses
  - b) Bless those who curse; honor those who mistreat you.
  - c) “Do not resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends.

### III. A Strengthening from Heaven

#### A. Overwhelming Evidence

1. “With many infallible proofs...”
2. Do you believe? If not, then what type of skeptic are you?
3. “By the standards of evidence and accepted jurisprudence, there is more irrefutable proof of Jesus’ resurrection than there is evidence that Julius Caesar ever existed.” - Sir William Ramsay (1851-1939)

#### B. Opened Eyes

1. The work of The Holy Spirit - **John 16:7-11 NIV** But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.
2. Beautifully Balanced - “The Bible gives us enough information to make our faith intelligent; it withholds enough information to give our faith room to grow.”  
— J. Sidlow Baxter (1903-1999)
3. The Walk to Emmaus - **Luke 24:30-32 NIV** When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

### IV. Christian Life Lessons

- A. The evidence for Resurrection stands on its own.
- B. Hell uses everything in its arsenal against the message of Easter.
- C. Faith is not inferior to logic.
- D. Easter demands a verdict from every hearer.