

The GARDEN of TEARS

Jesus went with his disciples to a garden named Gethsemane, and said to them, 'Stay here while I go over there and pray.... My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and watch with me.' Matt 26.36...

Jesus wept – bitter deep-wrought tears of fear and despair. In the Garden of Gethsemane, in his time of need, his trusty friends were not there. Yet, for all his shortcomings, Peter remained the 'Rock' on which Christ built his church.

Tears overwhelm us for many reasons.... In times of loss, fearfulness, pain, regret. Our tears are often for others – especially when we feel helpless, or when our failings overwhelm us. Jesus wept not only for himself but for each of us... overwhelmed with God's love for us and the longing to restore the bond between heaven and earth. He never asks perfection – only a willing heart and a commitment to keep going, to get up again when we fall, no matter how many trials we face. Despite our inadequacy, our frailty, our anxiety, even in our deepest loss, he calls us to be 'rocks' for others in the Garden of Tears.

Lord, we cannot change
the timing of our birth.
We cannot predict
what will be
nor how life will end,
but whatever comes
let it be with you.

Touch me now,
heal my wounds.
I don't ask for
understanding,
only for your touch to
transform my life.



Olive tree in Gethsemane – a silent witness to Jesus' tears.

Lord, when all is dark and I am lost,
when hope lies amongst the rubble of my life,
help me to wait:
for I know that you will come.

Lord, when the flow of my tears
washes away all understanding,
exposing deep wounds in my heart,
tell me to wait:
for I know that you will come.

Lord, when circumstances bind
and restrict the way ahead,
when the door is blocked
and there is no way out,
be with me as I wait:
for I know you will come
and roll away the stone.

*Prayers by Eddie Askew: 'There was a Garden' with permission.
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