



## **GETHSEMANE ACCORDING TO LUKE**

<sup>39</sup>Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup>When he arrived at the place he said to them, “Pray that you may not undergo the test.” <sup>41</sup>After withdrawing about a stone’s throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, <sup>42</sup>saying, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.”

<sup>43</sup>And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. <sup>44</sup>He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. <sup>45</sup>When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. <sup>46</sup>He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test.” *The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus.d*

<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, a crowd approached and in front was one of the Twelve, a man named Judas. He went up to Jesus to kiss him. <sup>48</sup>Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” <sup>49</sup>His disciples realized what was about to happen, and they asked, “Lord, shall we strike with a sword?” <sup>50</sup>And one of them struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup>But Jesus said in reply, “Stop, no more of this!” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus said to the chief priests and temple guards and elders who had come for him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs?

<sup>53</sup>Day after day I was with you in the temple area, and you did not seize me; but this is your hour, the time for the power of darkness.”

<sup>54</sup>After arresting him they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest; Peter was following at a distance.

(Lc 22, 39-54)

### **Brief Commentary:**

Among all the evangelists, Luke is the only one to remember that “His sweat became like great drops of blood” because of Jesus’ extreme agony, who in that time of darkness received from the Father the comfort of an angel. The symptom of haematosiis can happen as the result of an extreme physical suffering. According to the tradition, Luke who was a doctor attributed that symptom to Jesus’ “agony – (from the Greek “fight”) - against the power of darkness”.

“The power of darkness” was indeed present inside those men who came to take Jesus and it has two meanings: a literal and a biblical one. The first is that Jesus’ arrest happened at night with the favour of “darkness” so that the crowd, who followed him by day, could not help him. The second is that the “darkness” is biblically associated with the absence of God and it is a metaphor of all that is evil and touched by sin. The

evangelist is also the only one to tell Jesus' merciful gesture of healing the servant of the high priest's cut off ear.