

## Prayer of the Tired

Lord, I am so tired. Just trying to keep up with my job and family responsibilities would be enough but I have volunteered to help in liturgy and parish committees as well as civic and charitable organizations. I have stretched myself thin and yet I keep hearing you call me to do more.

I am struck by the Bible passage when you went to the garden for the last time. You took with you Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and you asked them to stay awake with you and pray. Now, I understand your disappointment when you returned from your ordeal to find them asleep, but you rebuked them. You said, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." What did you really expect?

For three years these men followed you as you trekked across the desert. They gave up everything just to be with you. Of course they were honored to be in your presence and they would have been willing to try and do anything you asked. Still, their bodies, like mine, were created with limitations. Could you really expect them to stay awake in the darkness of the garden when they had no idea what was coming? You said your yoke was easy and your burden light but at times I feel like it's overwhelming.

So, I ask you Jesus, why do you always expect more of me? I feel like I already do more of your work than so many others I see around me.

I hear you respond, "It's because not everyone else does my will that I ask more from you. I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.

But Lord, why do we need to do so much? Can't we cut back a little?

"Look around you. Has the need decreased? Who would you choose to not be fed today, or healed, or brought into my kingdom?"

You have a point, but why me Lord? I am no spiritual leader. I'm just a man.

"Ah, yes. Moses felt the same way. If I call you to lead, then you are a leader. My qualifications are not the same as man's."

But Lord, you could fix all of these things yourself with a single command. Why do you ask me to work so hard at them?

"Because you need to, for your own benefit. That is who you are. You are my follower and you are preparing yourself to become holy. I will be with you always and I will never ask more of you than I know you can handle. I will push you because that is what you require to grow. I will understand when you try but fall short, and I will be filled with pride when you succeed after falling down. But you must try even when you're weary. The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few"

Then Lord, I ask that you give me strength that I don't have. Give me wisdom beyond my limited ability. And give me rest, that I might rise anew and do the work you've set before me.

"You will have all that and my blessing too. Oh, and I'll be here any time you need to talk."