But There Be None

Mt. 26.

Intro. A. Word of appreciation for your kind attention, for the generosity of Church and minister.

B. Come now to last crisis - Gethsemane.

C. Background -

1. During day - publicly he taught,
2. at night - retired outside city.

D. Passover time - in city after dark. Not thickens.

1. Careful arrangements for Passover.
2. Celebrated Passover festival, closed with Great Hallel (Psa. 136 - "O give thanks to the Lord")

E. From upper Room, across Kidron, up slope to Garden + olive grove. Passover at full moon so perhaps all men + trees cast shadows.

F. Jesus has grown silent, leaves 8, taking 3 with him.

I His Gethsemane (Not just an example, for our imitation)

A. Described as time of agony, prayer, troubled spirit.

B. Very much alone.

C. What we see is conflict of wills. One accepts the other.

1. Jesus has no inferiority complex. Has not rolled over + played dead.
2. Tried to stay alive. Strategy shows it.

D. Talk with Father. "Abba."

E. What fills his mind? Leaving friends who do not understand and who may further misunderstand. Betrayed by a friend; opposed by people of God; death: absurd fact of death. Do not like the need-lessness of it. Not just death but knowing of death.

See discussion of Death in mind - nature or ... Mrs. Brown

F. We cannot enter his mind. Seems sacrilege to draw near. They did not; how can we?

II Our Gethsemane

A. Not a place but an experience. Home, hospital, highway, chapel.

B. What does His Gethsemane say of ours?

C. Note -

1. Issues of man's purpose in life too serious and complex for flip of coin or draw straws,
2. These issues are one thing from distance; another up close. One in prison
3. Hence none can say "If I were you --" Meaningless. What can I at his room of tranquillity say to you in your night

of terror?

4. Not matter of having right verse, poem, word. No answer until question arises.

5. But God no stranger and Jesus has been here before.

D. Man's greatest struggle in crisis is with will of God.

1. What it means? Am I guilty? Does God know?

2. The ~~options~~ ones entertained over coffee or now the issues.

a. No good.
b. God doesn't know or care.
c. God did it.
d. God can use even this to accomplish his will.

Problem often is accepting wrong things are. Some harbor deep resentment.

E. Time for affirming the goodness and power of God. Lord giving my life to him.

1. Easy enough at times to speak of his goodness. Children well, fields green, all well.
But how soon to complain when not to our immediate advantage. I gaped at time of some of life's greatest blessings.
I do not know what's best, how to pray, what is really good! Here reasons enough to give way to larger goodness of his will.

2. And when will I be convinced of his power?
Band of Heb. slaves;
Band of Gal. fishermen; melted coldest hearts;
hooked from grip; most of all, turned death of Christ into salv. of world + darkest night to brightest morning.

3. Grandma's guilt.