

THE ACTION IN THE GARDEN – PART 1

Introduction – Gardens in the ancient world were primarily fruitful trees and bushes. Later it came to include vegetables and flowers. Today we reconnect with creation in parks or gardens. The central events of the Bible occur in gardens. From the Garden of Eden, to the garden of Gethsemane, and the garden where Jesus was crucified, buried, resurrected, and made his first resurrection appearance, to the garden city where we will spend eternity with God, the message is about the action in the garden.

A. The Garden of Eden is where it begins

Genesis 2:8-17

1. God placed humanity in a well-watered garden east of Eden with two special trees.
2. Human beings were to be gardeners and to guard the garden from evil.
3. It was a choice between obedience or rebellion; immortality and death.

B. The gardeners fail their task

Genesis 2:25-3:9

The question that echoes down through the ages is “Where are you?”

C. Exiled from the Garden

Genesis 3:21-24

D. The first temptation of Christ occurred in the desert (Matthew 4:1ff). The final temptation was in the garden of Gethsemane. *When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook of Cedron, where was a garden, into which he entered, and his disciples* (John 18:1 KJV).

1. Matthew 26:36-46

- a. Gethsemane literally means “an olive press.”
- b. The agonizing struggle of Jesus to submit to the will of God is sobering.
- c. “Could you men not keep watch with me one hour?”
- d. “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The Spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

2. Matthew 26:47-56

- a. "Do you not think I can call on my Father and he will not put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"
- b. "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?"
- c. "Then all his disciples deserted him and fled."

Conclusion – Where the first couple failed, Jesus overcame the temptation of Satan. Our responsibility is to guard against evil by preparing through prayer to be on alert.

1 Peter 5:8

(There will be no discussion groups today after the message.)