

NORTH HILLS NOTES

"WATCH!"

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They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand." Mark 14:32-42 (NRSV)

To "Watch!" is to be activated and alert in our spiritual lives. It means:

1. ENGAGEMENT with one another and for one another.
2. FOCUS on what is essential.
3. VIGILANCE toward threats, and one's weaknesses.
4. ACTIVE SURRENDER to the will and plan of God.

Jesus' command to "Watch!" expresses:

1. His longing for connection with us: " Watch WITH ME ." *He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.* Mark 14:32 (NRSV)

Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." Matthew 26:38 (NRSV)

2. His warning about dangers we can be susceptible to: "Watch

YOURSELF ."
"Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Mark 14:38 (NRSV)

3. His love for our fellowship: " Watch for ONE ANOTHER ". *"let us."* Mark 14:42 (NRSV) --we are the "us" of the story.