

*Did Jesus experience anxiety?*

In God's wisdom he allowed his Son to be crucified (1 Co 2:7, 8). The sins of the world were put on Jesus (1 Pe 1:18, 19).

Jesus sought assistance from his friends Peter, James, and John before going to the cross (Mt 26:36–38). He suffered (vv. 39–46) and returned to find them sleeping (vv. 40–41).

Regarding Matthew 26:38 Ulrich Luz wrote:

[H]ere they experience him in human sorrow....He begins to grieve and to be fearful....He expresses his anguish forcefully with the biblical words of the psalms of lament in Ps 41:6, 12; 42:5 LXX. Περύλυπος already has a superlative meaning: "exceedingly sorrowful." It is made even more intense with the addition of "unto death" (ἕως θανάτου). We are not able to say whether that is merely a rhetorical-hyperbolic intensifying of the sorrow or more concretely that Jesus' sorrow reaches to the realm of the dead. This expression is also biblical. In this situation of extreme distress Jesus, who thus far as Immanuel was always "with" the disciples (v. 36; cf. 26:18, 20, 29), for once reverses the situation and asks his closest disciples to watch with him and not to abandon him...

...He falls on his face, not as an expression of deepest despair...but in the same way Abraham did when he spoke with God (Gen 17:3, 17; cf. Num 22:31; 1 Kgs 18:39; Dan 8:17). Thus Jesus is not only desperate; he is at the same time pious.<sup>1</sup>

The suffering servant (Is 53) was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin (He 4:15).

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<sup>1</sup> Luz, U. (2005). *Matthew 21–28: a commentary*. (H. Koester, Ed.) (pp. 395–396). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg.