

# Night, with Ebon Pinion

## I. Introduction

A. The song *Night, with Ebon Pinion* focuses on Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before His death. Consider some principles taught in Scripture that are alluded to in this hymn. **Hymns for Worship, Song 162**

## II. "Night, with Ebon Pinion..."

- A. The opening words of this poetic song paint the scene of the Lord's prayer in the Garden. The words "Night, with ebon pinion, Brooded o'er the vale" relate to the time when this prayer appears to have taken place. **Song 162, verse 1a; Matthew 26:40, 43; 27:1**
- B. The second half of the first verse notes the fact that Jesus, the "Man of Sorrows" (cf. **Isa. 53:3**), was in much anguish as He prayed to the Father that night. In fact, He was in so much agony that "His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground." **Song 162, verse 1b; Matthew 26:38; Luke 22:44**

## III. "Smitten for Offenses..."

- A. The second verse of the song begins with a reference to *why* Jesus had to suffer this anguish. He was wounded for *our* transgressions and bruised for *our* iniquities. **Song 162, verse 2a; Isaiah 53:4-5; Hebrews 5:7**
- B. The second verse also notes how alone Jesus was as He suffered through His anguish in the Garden. While He had no *man* to comfort Him, Jesus did receive strength and support by approaching the Father. **Song 162, verse 2b; Matthew 26:40; 2 Timothy 4:16-17**

## IV. "Abba, Father, Father..."

- A. The final verse of the hymn expresses the content of Jesus' prayer in the Garden. The first part of His prayer involved Him asking, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me." **Song 162, verse 3a; Matthew 26:39**
- B. The key qualifier to this supplication is seen in the words, "nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." **Song 162, verse 3b; Matthew 26:39, 42**
- C. This attitude of Jesus is not only one to be grateful for, but it also exemplifies the self-denial that is commanded of *us*. Our attitude, like Jesus', should be "Let Thy will be done." **Matthew 16:24**

## V. Conclusion

- A. This hymn helps us appreciate the depth of what Jesus endured, not only through the *physical* pain leading up to and including His crucifixion, but also through the *mental* anguish He faced, including during His time there in the Garden.