



STRANGELY DIM

Jesus & the Garden

Luke 21:37

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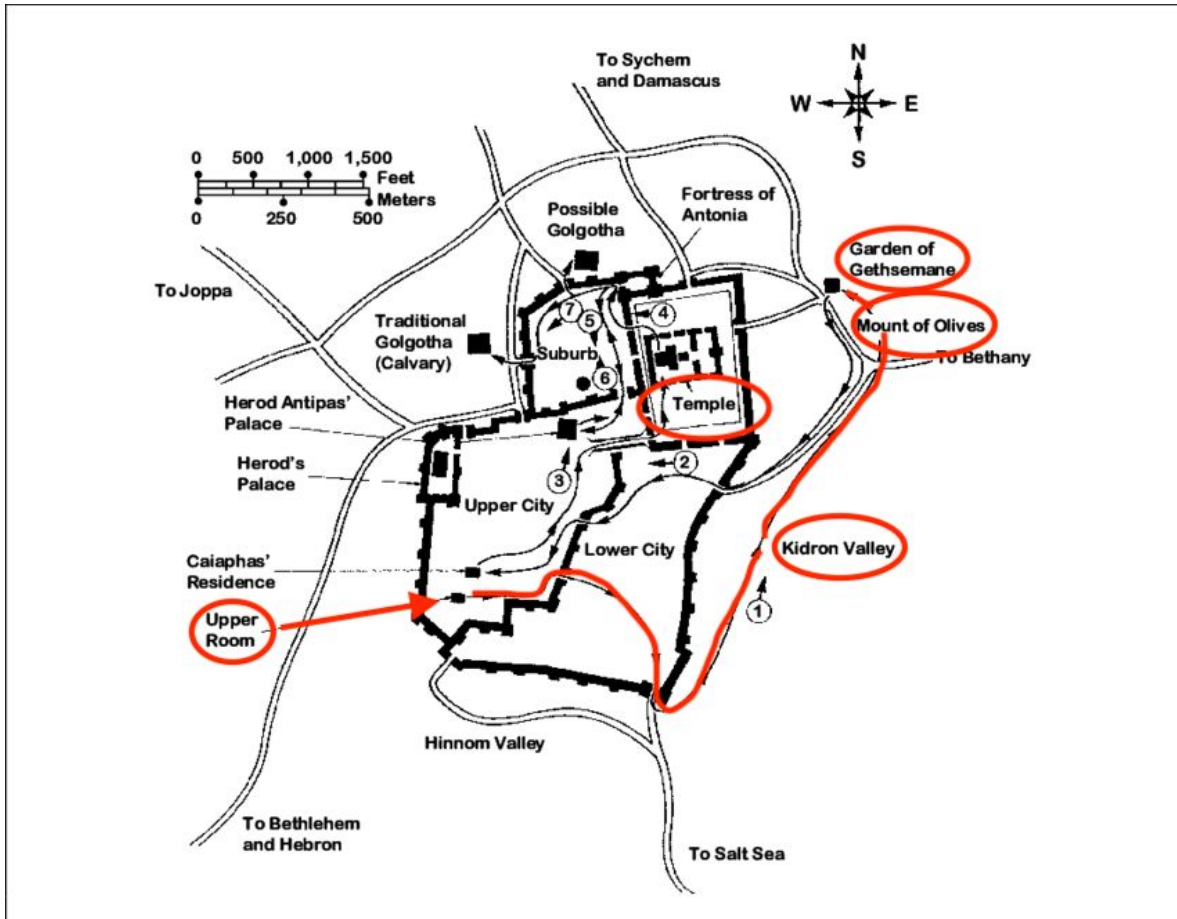
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Luke 21:37

Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives.

John 18:1

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.



John 18:2

Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

The garden was an environment for learning.

Mark 13:3

Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately.

Mark 4:33-34

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a

parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

“In the private instruction which Jesus gives to his disciples, the mystery of the Kingdom as present in his person is graciously unveiled.”

- William L. Lane, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*

The garden was an environment for intimacy.

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

- St. Augustine of Hippo

The garden was an environment of agony.

Mark 14:33-36

[He] began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death.” He fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Finding our garden environment

“O God, early in the morning I cry to you.
Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you;
I can't do this alone. In me there's darkness,
But with you there's light; I'm lonely, but you don't leave me;
I'm feeble in heart, but with you there's help;

I'm restless, but with you there's peace.
In me there's bitterness, but with you there's patience;
I don't understand your ways, but you know the way for me.
O Heavenly Father, I praise and thank you for rest in the night;
I praise and thank you for this new day;
I praise and thank you for all your goodness
and faithfulness throughout my life.
You have granted me many blessings;
Now let me also accept what's hard from your hand.
You will lay on me no more than I can bear.
You make all things work together for good for your children.
Lord Jesus Christ, You were poor and in distress,
a captive and forsaken as I am.
You know all man's troubles;
You abide with me when all men fail me;
You remember and seek me;
It's your will that I should know you and turn to you.
Lord, I hear your call and follow; help me.
O Holy Spirit, give me faith that will protect me.
From despair, from passions, and from vice;
Give me such love for God and men
as will blot out all hatred and bitterness;
Give me the hope that will deliver me
from fear and faint-heartedness.
Teach me to see Jesus and to do his will.
Amen."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer