

'REST IN THE LORD' MESSAGES 4 U

3. THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Grace and spiritual blessing be to you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:3

Let be and be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46: 10

Jesus said: Come away by yourselves and rest awhile. Mark 6: 31

Considering these words, feel a deep sense of inner peace as you *Rest in the Lord*; imagining, this time, you are on the Mount of Olives. In the light of early morning, with the rising sun shining on the Holy City, this beautiful eastern view of Jerusalem is becoming so clear.

It is changed like clay into which a seal is pressed; and things stand out like a many-coloured garment. Job 38: 14

This is the view pictured on countless calendars and postcards and readily comes to mind whether you have visited Jerusalem or not. The white stone of its ancient buildings and walls stand out gleaming in the sunshine under the bright blue Mediterranean Sky. It is springtime and everywhere the trees are in blossom and the land is lush with abundant herbage, the fronds of palm trees and so fragrant with the profusion of flowers. There are lovely wild flowers growing on the grassy hillsides, wayside verges, and tumbling over walls or nestling in nooks and crannies.

The olive tree has grown on the Mount of Olives from ancient times; hence the name and the colour - olive green, so relaxing and calming. Now imagine yourself at the foot of the Mount of Olives entering the Garden of Gethsemane, another ancient and very special garden in Jerusalem. Enjoy the flowers there and the slender leaves of the olive trees trembling in the slightest breeze. This is the place where Jesus actually walked and talked with His disciples and knelt with them in prayer. How wonderful to be, as if there, on the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus frequently prayed!



He went, as was His habit, to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples also followed Him. Luke 22: 39

Yes, it was to the Mount of Olives, to that Garden of Gethsemane, meaning the place of the oil press, that our Lord withdrew alone during the day, or for a whole night, to rest and pray under the stars, communing with His Father, the Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

It was the same after celebrating the Passover Meal with His disciples -

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Mark 14: 26

Jesus went out with His disciples across the winter torrent of the Kidron ravine. There was a garden there which He and His disciples entered.

John 18: 1



And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw and knelt down and prayed. Luke 22: 41

Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.

Luke 22: 42

Then, after the third time of prayer, He again found them sleeping!

And when He got up from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping from grief.

Luke 22: 45

Indeed, this centuries old Garden of Gethsemane is a Christian site of sacred memory. It's another place so full of significance in the life of Jesus; especially after these memorable prayers to His Father, abruptly followed by His arrest after the betrayal by Judas Iscariot.

Picture that garden now with its eight remaining olive trees, their thickened trunks and branches so gnarled and twisted.

The olive branch is an ancient symbol of peace and friendship and one of the many names of Jesus in the Old Testament is –

'The Branch.'

Thus says the Lord of hosts:

Behold, the Messiah whose name is the Branch.

Zechariah 6: 12



Such thoughts bring to mind again, in the view opposite the Mount of Olives, that other beautiful and memorable garden in Jerusalem near the Damascus Gate. It was here on that very first Easter morning of the Resurrection, before it was light, that the women came carrying sweet-smelling spices all the way to the garden, because they loved Jesus so. Picture them finding the great stone, sealing the tomb, wondrously rolled away, with an angel sitting on it saying:

Do not be alarmed, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, Who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, as He said He would.

Come see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples He has risen from the dead. So they left the tomb hastily with fear and great joy and ran to tell His disciples. And as they went Jesus met them. And they went up to Him and clasped His feet and worshipped Him.

Matthew 28: 5 - 9

In all History there is no moment in time for mankind like this – no news so astounding, so awesome in magnitude and stupendous in joy! What gasps of joyous astonishment as the impact of this tremendous news dawned on the women in the garden that first Easter morning!

Jesus was alive! Mary had seen Him!

Ponder on the amazing fact that Jesus, the Son of God had arisen; and is alive for evermore and through believing in Him our sins are forgiven.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not die but have everlasting life.

John 3: 16



What a reason to be filled with joy and ever thankful!

Yes, Jesus Christ is the Olive Branch for each one of us through faith in believing and receiving Him, as Saviour, into our lives.

What joy for Mary Magdalene when Jesus called her name – **Mary!**

Yes, Jesus calls each one of us by name.

Hear Him call your name, for Jesus is the Olive Branch just for **you!**

What peace, comfort and joy for the soul as we, 'Rest in the Lord,' holding on to the truth of God's Word and trusting Him at all times.

You will guard and keep in perfect peace those whose mind is stayed on You.

Isaiah 26: 3

And Jesus said:

I have told you these things while I am still with you.

John 14: 25

I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have perfect peace.

John 16: 33

I have told you these things, that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.

John 15:11

JOY

Jesus must come first every day,
Other people next - you meet on the way,
Yourself last of all – come what may!

Then you will have - **JOY, JOY, JOY** ALWAYS!

For the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Nehemiah 8: 10

Continue to meditate on God's love in Jesus, His joy and perfect peace as you 'Rest in the Lord' with a thankful heart for your relationship with Him.

At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

Ephesians 5: 20

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT -

is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

Galatians 5: 22,23

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Philippians 4: 23

