

Mark 14:32-42 - A Garden of Sadness

TSK, Clarke, GreekLexicon, Rienecker, Geneva, Family, JFB, Robertson, Poole, Vincent, Henry, PNT, Trapp, INT, Calvin, Gill?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus came to earth to suffer. But his suffering was not just when the nail spikes were driven through his hands and feet. He suffered long before the cross. He was poor. He was insulted constantly and mocked. He was hungry. He had no place to sleep. His family members turned against him. He was often alone. And then the suffering intensified. He would mentally **suffer...with the thoughts of the cross**. He **would suffer when his disciples abandoned him** – not even being willing to pray with him. And he would suffer when **Judas betrayed him** to **wretches that would kill him**. Hear today about Jesus' suffering in Gethsemane.

Our headings are:

Jesus' Sorrow

Disciples' Sleep

Judas' Shame

Our goals are: **That seeing the suffering of Jesus for you, that you will be willing to live, and if necessary, to die for him.**

Jesus' Sorrow

32 Then they came to a place which was **named Gethsemane**; and He said to His disciples, "**Sit here while I pray.**"

1. Jesus came to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and he asked his disciples to sit there as company for him.

a. Why did Jesus come to this garden? Gethsemane was at the foot of the Mount of Olives. "Geth" means "to press," and "shemene" means "oil," so it likely referred to the pressing of the olives from the Mount of Olives to make oil. Literally translated, it would be "Garden of the oil press." (Eight of these Olive trees are still there and could easily have been the ones the Lord saw.) Gethsemane was probably a picture of the suffering the Lord would face...the agony...the pressing...the suffering!

b. But why did Jesus need to pray? Even though Jesus was fully God, he was also fully man, and the **thought of his coming betrayal and death was painful**. So as man he needed help from his Father in heaven. When you need help, you pray.

33 And He took **Peter, James, and John** with Him, and He began to be troubled and **deeply distressed**. 34 Then He said to them, "**My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death**. Stay here and watch."

2. Jesus took his 3 closest disciples with him and he began to be very sorrowful – deeply sorrowful.

He went a "stone's throw" from the disciples and **knelt down to pray**.

a. Why did he take 3 disciples closer to where he was?

These 3 would be sufficient witnesses of his suffering. (These were the ones on the Mt of

Transfiguration.) Two or three witnesses were required to prove anything.

Furthermore, he wanted their human support. This clearly showed his humanity. The prospect of death, especially a painful death, is always cause of concern.

b. Why was he troubled and deeply distressed and dissolved in sorrow (Perilupos)? (“Peril” and “over.”) He was dissolving in sorrow because this was **the beginning of his being the sacrifice for sins.** (Can you imagine the intensity of the suffering and pain for blood to leave the veins and skin?) **This was true agony of the soul! Agony of the body was coming.**

Psalms 22:14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

3. But Jesus had to do this to meet God’s justice.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet **it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;** He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And **the pleasure of the LORD** shall prosper in His hand.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He **made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,** that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

35 He went a little farther, and **fell on the ground,** and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. 36 And He said, "**Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away** from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

4. Jesus then fell on his knees and bowed to the ground.

His head was then touching the ground between his knees. So it was more than kneeling now!

5. Jesus then made a stunning prayer: That if possible, God might take his cup of suffering away.

This cup was an allusion to the cup of poison that a criminal was forced to drink or a potion that would have limited pain of one being killed. But Jesus had drink a cup of suffering – taking it in the place of his children who ought to be taking it. When the criminals would stand in a row and each drink from the cup, the judge would sometimes allow someone the freedom not to drink and die and he would pass it on to the others. This is the idea of the prayer. Jesus used this expression before.

Matthew 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. **Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?**" They said to Him, "We are able."

Now the phrase "**if it is possible,** take this cup from me" **was a natural (not sinful) expression of Jesus.** Jesus was stating the natural of response to avoid pain and suffering. (This proved his humanity.) Men do not always ask what based on what is possible. The

law of self-preservation is instilled on every man.

“Nevertheless” he said, “not what I will, but what you will.” This was a perfect resignation to the will of God.

John 6:40 "And **this is the will of Him who sent Me**, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and **I will raise him up at the last day.**"

John 5:30 "**I can of Myself do nothing.** As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because **I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father** who sent Me.

Of course we pray similarly: Lord, keep me from temptation and troubles, but if you don't, help me to accept your will.

Exodus 32:33 And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.

Romans 9:3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

6. Jesus then, encouraged by angels, according to Luke, submitted himself to doing God's will.

He had to voluntarily do the will of the Father. Death was so revolting, that he would only do it if the father willed it. But the Father was pleased to use angels to strengthen him

7. Lessons:

a. Christ was fully human and therefore a fit sacrifice for sins. If he were not human you would all be in your sins.

Hebrews 4:15 For **we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses**, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

b. Christ was a willing sacrifice for your sins. He had to be a voluntary sacrifice. He submitted himself to his Father's call.

c. Christ endured temptations for you...in the wilderness and here in Gethsemane, to walk away from the cross. When short-circuiting the cross didn't work (I'll give you the kingdom if you worship me.), Satan tried pain. Christ endured it all.

d. When you are tempted, you are not alone. The Lord gives his angels charge to help and protect you so you don't sin.

Disciples' Sleep

37 Then He came and found them sleeping, and **said to Peter**, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour?"

1. Jesus became sadder when his closest companions fell asleep when they should have been awake and supporting him.

He just wanted them to be with him for even just one hour...but they would not. Peter had just said he would go to prison and die for the Lord, but he couldn't stay awake for one hour. And that is what the other disciples said as well. (Do you see why God used how much man loved himself as the standard of how he is to love his neighbor? Self-love is a most powerful sin.)

38 "**Watch and pray**, lest you enter into temptation. The **spirit indeed is willing**, but the **flesh is weak**." 39 Again He **went away and prayed**, and spoke the same words.

2. Jesus challenged Peter to watch and pray, for he knew they needed God's help as well,

Why did Peter need God's help? While Jesus called Peter to be a support to him, he pointed out **Peter needed help to face what was coming to the disciples**. Peter would have the pressure to deny knowing the Lord. Further, **Peter's spirit was willing, but his flesh was weak and this was all the more reason to pray**.

3. Jesus then went to pray, again asking his disciples to stay awake with him.

40 And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes **were heavy**; and they did not know what to answer Him.

4. Returning a 2nd time, he still found them sleeping, their eyes being very heavy (weighed down).

How could they have been so selfish? He had fed them for 3 ½ years. He had nourished them with his sacrament. But they could not support Jesus. **Their guilt was obvious**. They did not know what to say.

41 Then **He came the third time** and said to them, "**Are you still sleeping and resting?**"

5. Returning a 3rd time, Jesus still found his disciples sleeping.

And in a sense of mournful irony, he asked them if they were still sleeping...even after he had pleaded for their support.

6. Lessons:

a. Jesus had to fully suffer for all your sins. You could not do it. And he had to suffer alone. You, like the disciples, would not even support him in his suffering.

b. Because Jesus faced death with sorrow on his face, you can face death with a smile on yours. How wonderful the grace of God!

b. Love for the Savior is great, but it is hard to love when you are feeling pain. This is

why you must pray to be faithful even when going through difficult times. Faithfulness does not come naturally. Are you sick, tired, frustrated, or fearful? Ask God for strength to remain faithful.

Judas' Shame

41 ...It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being **betrayed into the hands of sinners**. 42 "Rise, let us be going. See, My **betrayed is at hand**."

1. After facing abandonment by his disciples, things got worse: Jesus announced that Judas was about to betray him to the Jewish leaders.

The **one who was his friend** would betray him. His life of wickedness was prophesied about 1000 years before. He would betray the God of glory.

Psalms 41:9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, **Has lifted up his heel against me**.

The **Jewish leaders, who were in the place of God the Father** and should have protected God the Son, conspired with Jesus' friend to betray him.

2. Jesus then told the disciples to get up as his betrayer was nearby.

This would have confirmed his Deity...the one who knew even when the enemy was near.

3. And it appeared that the Lord moved toward where Judas and the conspiring Jews were.

Jesus did not hide. He came to die.

4. Lessons:

a. Remember what the Lord has done for you and the riches he has given to you so that you do not betray him. You have eternal life in heaven. Don't betray him for shiny trinkets.

b. Christ allowed himself willingly to be taken, so he might make satisfaction for your willfulness.

c. Your Lord knows everything that happens and he controls everything that happens. Trust him when he tells you to do something. You can't go wrong doing this.

Conclusion:

Jesus faced intense sorrow in the Garden of Gethsemane. And he did it alone. His close friends did not help him. They either abandoned him, denied knowing him, or betrayed him. His own friends who would eat his food, learn from him, and enjoy his company would abandon him. But love pushed him on. He set his eye like flint and went to the cross.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Jesus was a freewill offering for you too. And he had to walk to the cross by himself. He fully satisfied God's justice that was on your head.

2. How do you respond? Respond like the disciples responded after Christ restored them for abandoning him. Be ready to be offered as a sacrifice for him. Maybe you don't have to die, but maybe you have to give up that extra money so you children can have good books to read. Maybe you have to give up that bottle of wine so you can help the poor and the persecuted. Maybe you give up that extra hour of sleep so you can write a few encouraging emails to Christ's children. Maybe you walk around the neighborhood with some tracts in your hand instead of getting on Netflix and your favorite TV program. Show you value what Jesus has done for you.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, it doesn't matter how bad you have been or how much you might have opposed the Lord. He died to make salvation possible for the whole world. If you want his salvation, ask him. Say: Lord, I've fought you enough. I am a sinner. I need your forgiveness. Jesus took all my sins when he died on the tree.