

Christ in the Garden

Sermon 82 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 26:36-39

Luke 22:41-45 -- And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ⁴³ **Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.** ⁴⁴ **And being in agony,** He prayed more earnestly. Then **His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.** ⁴⁵ When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them **sleeping from sorrow.**

I. Jesus Prays for Himself – Psalm 42:4-43:5

Even on the cross, we see Him quoting Scriptures concerning Himself.
Ps. 22:1 – My God, my God why have you forsaken me

II. Matthew's Account – Matthew 26:36-46

A. His Soul's State v. 36-38

1. *He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed* v. 37

- a. Sorrowful = the word basically means – sad or grieved.

In Mark a different word is used translated is "troubled"
Literally means filled with wonder or amazed.

- b. Deeply distressed v. 37

Literally – it is over-heavy.

Emotionally – it means deeply distressed or absolutely sorrowful

2. Very sorrowful or exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death v. 38

Vincent Taylor says, "*With every desire to avoid unwarranted psychological interpretations, it is impossible to do any kind of justice to these words without seeing in them something of the astonishment of the Son of Man who knows that He is also the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53.*"

B. His Physical State v. 39

He was even in such distress he was falling with his face to the ground.

C. His Prayer v. 39

He appeals to the Father as MY Father.

The humility – if it be possible

The request – let this cup pass from me

Yet He bows his will to the will of the Father -- *Nevertheless – not as I will, but as You will*

D. What should we think about Christ in the Garden?

We should see this as the perfect response from the perfect man.

This is the perfect man's revulsion and grief at being made "sin for us".

This is the perfect man's perfect response to a violent and cruel death.

E. Christ was not refusing to take the cup

APPLICATIONS

1. In the light of Gethsemane and the cross – how can we commit sin, embrace sin or be unmoved by sin?
2. Christ had to do something that God required – that every single cell in His body cried out against, but He was willing to do it, because it was the Father's will.
3. What is the message of Gethsemane?