



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Story in a Garden!

Luke 22:39-53

Message #67 of 70 – S857

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Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Story in a Garden!

Luke 22:39-53

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 22**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- The Bible teaches that both heaven and hell are real places and that all of humanity will end up in one or the other
- One of the things people will object to about Christianity is the doctrine of Hell – a place of eternal, conscious suffering for the punishment of sin
- They will say that a good God would not send anyone to Hell
- They're right! A good God would give them the choice of heaven or hell!
- A good God would make the choice simple – not complicated – make one way to heaven
- A good God would warn you that choosing not to choose the way God provides is choosing hell
- And a good God would warn that choosing hell is a terrible choice
- God made it simple to escape hell and go to heaven **John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- God is a good God – He sent Jesus so that no one would have to go to hell
- In our text today, we are going to get a glimpse of something that I think most people miss, or don't understand the way they should
- You see, not only is God a good God, He is also holy – perfectly pure in all things
- When He created us, He made us in His image – to be like Him – to be good AND holy **1 Peter 1:14-16**

...as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

- We have the Word of God so that we can understand what holiness is
- God sent His Son Jesus so that we could see what holiness looks like

- And Jesus send the Holy Spirit so that we could be holy
- Because God is holy, when humans choose not to be holy, God's holiness must respond
- But because God is good, God delays responding in His holiness
- We get a graphic picture of that in today's text
- We will see three primary characters in this text
- Each one teaches something about how to live this life
- Let's pray and then get into our text
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Story in a Garden!**
 - Last time they were finishing up the Last Supper
 - **Luke 22:39-46**
 - More information is provided by Matthew, Mark, and John's accounts of this event
 - Jesus left eight of the disciples near the entrance of the Garden and took Peter, James, and John deeper in
 - They also tell us that Jesus came back three times and found them sleeping
 - Notice that the theme of this section is prayer
 - It opens and closes with Jesus telling the disciples to pray and Jesus is praying
 - Tells the disciples why they should pray – “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”
 - Temptation = test – given for the purpose to make one stumble
 - All temptations come from one of three sources: the flesh (our own desires), the world, or the devil – never from God **James 1:13**
- Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.**
- Prayer is a key to protecting ourselves from temptation – from the tests that lead to moral failure – poor choices – sin
 - We will see a sample of faltering prayer later – but first – **Faith-Filled Prayer**
 - Verse 42 is a summary of what Jesus prayed in the Garden that night

- Before we talk about what Jesus prayed, I want to look at the manner in which He prayed
- First, Jesus' prayer – **Based on Relationship**
- Anyone who prays, bases those prayers on the relationship they have with God
- If God is Lawgiver – we tend to pray about what we did or didn't do – like the Pharisees
- If God is judge – we are praying for mercy
- If God is provider – we are praying for grace
- While each of those things is true about God, it is not all of God
- Jesus addressed God as 'Father' = someone who cares for you, is responsible for you, and you are willing to submit to
- Second – Jesus' prayer – **Expressed His Will**
- 'take this cup away from Me'
- We will get into what that cup symbolizes in a moment, but Jesus is saying plainly that He doesn't want it
- It is perfectly right to express to God what you want or what you want to do
- Based on the relationship, Jesus knew He could let God know exactly what He didn't want to do
- Third element of Jesus' prayer – **Willingly Yielded to God's Will**
- Jesus' will was that the Father take away the cup
- But He was also fully yielded to doing what God wanted Him to do
- In His humanity Jesus always did what pleased the Father, and I believe that most of the time He was pleased to do it **John 8:29**
And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.
- A faith-filled prayer life is one that walks in the relationship God desires us to have with Him – Heavenly father/child
- It is one in which we share openly what is on our heart, but is fully yielded to what God wants rather than what we want when He wants something different
- That's how Jesus prayed, now let's look at what He prayed
- **Luke 22:42**
- What is this cup that Jesus is referring to?

- Turn to **Revelation 14**
- There are several verses about this cup – while you are turning **Psalm 75:8**

For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is fully mixed, and He pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth drain and drink down.

- And **Isaiah 51:17**

Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of His fury; you have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, and drained it out.

- And here **Revelation 14:9-10**

- At the beginning I said God is good and holy
- In His holiness, God must judge and punish sin – which is rebellion against His perfection and to His perfect will for you and this world
- In His goodness God chooses not to judge us for our sins when we commit them, though He would be perfectly just to do so
- Because He is love and because He is good, He gives us time to repent, to turn away from our sin and return to Him and His perfect will

- Turn back to **Luke 22**

- The cup is where God stores His wrath and judgment for our sins
- The cup that Jesus is referring to is the one that contains God's wrath and judgment for the sins of the whole world
- Jesus was going to have that cup poured out on Him and the very thought of caused Him great anguish and distress
- The cup of the wrath of God represents at least three things that caused Jesus to be distressed
- First – **Defilement**
- Jesus was the sinless one, but on the cross the sins of the whole world would be placed on Him **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.

- Second – **Death**

- Jesus, the eternal Son of God would taste death because death is the consequence of sin **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Third – **Division**

- From eternity past, God the Father and the Son have been in perfect oneness – because He will become sin for us that oneness will be broken for a time **Isaiah 59:2**

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

- For a time the Father who loves the Son infinitely and eternally will turn His back on His Son and Jesus will cry out from the cross – “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*”
- In the Garden of Gethsemane, as the disciples sleep, Jesus is wrestling with His will – repulsed by the thought of what He must do – He prays, and God hears His prayer and sends an angel to strengthen Him
- Jesus is our example of faith-filled prayer
- Let’s look at our other two characters and then close
- Next comes **False Prayer**
- **Luke 22:47-48**
- Culturally it was appropriate to kiss in this way – sign of respect and affection
- But Jesus knew what Judas was doing – the multitude (600+) with clubs and swords kind of gave it away
- Jesus’ question to Judas is important
- Jesus had to be betrayed – the Bible predicted it, but Jesus still loved the betrayer
- Even now Jesus is trying to call him back from the abyss his dark soul was headed toward – what amazing love and grace!
- Last comes **Faltering Prayer**
- **Luke 22:49-51**
- Twice Jesus told them to pray so that they wouldn’t enter into temptation – they didn’t pray – and so rather than trusting Jesus and following His lead – they leap into action – the wrong action
- John’s gospel tells us it was Peter who is hacking and slashing
- Jesus tells them to stop and then does something remarkable – He heals the man’s ear
- This is the last miracle Jesus performed before He died – and it was for an enemy!
- Because He had prayed He was ready for what was coming – could focus on the needs of others

- Jesus then addresses the leaders
- **Luke 22:52-53**
- These hard-hearted leaders were hypocritical cowards
- But this was their ‘hour’ – the time of the ‘power of darkness’
- As Christians the darkness has no power over us **Colossians 1:13-14**
He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
- The Bible teaches clearly that all of humanity is lost in sin **Romans 3:23**
...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...
- That means a cup of the wrath of God was being filled up for you
- And when I read a text like this I understand that it was my sin that caused Jesus so much distress in the Garden
- But then the amazing grace of God was poured out on me and you and we received Christ as our Savior
- And then the cup of the wrath of God over our sins was emptied by Christ’s sacrifice, it was cleansed by His blood, it was turned upside down because the sacrifice of Christ was so complete, and that cup was placed somewhere that no one can find it because of God’s love
- God is love – God is good – But God is also holy
- As a Christian, the distress of Jesus in the Garden makes me want to live a holy life – I don’t do it perfectly, but I want to
- But I don’t worry about judgment, because Jesus took my cup of God’s wrath on the cross
- If you are not a Christian, I need to warn you – God is holy – He must judge sin – otherwise He would not be just or righteous
- But He is good – He made a way through His Son for your sins to be forgiven – but you must choose that way and turn away from your old life
- Without Christ, you cannot be good enough or do enough good things to empty the cup of God’s wrath over your sins – Jesus already did it
- All you must do is believe it
- **Pray!**