



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Agony!

Matthew 26:36-46

Message #73 of 80 – S1113

Sermon given on August 4, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Agony!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 26**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Agony!**
- Our study in Matthew has come to the last day of Christ's life.
- In less than 24 hours, He will be on the cross and then in the tomb.
- Last time, we looked at the account of the Last Supper.
- I didn't mention this last week because I didn't want to spoil the moment of the Last Supper by pointing to the evil in this world.
- I am guessing that most of you heard about the opening ceremony for the Olympics in Paris and the perverted mockery of the Last Supper and Christ.
- Thankfully, I missed watching it live, but sadly it ruined the whole thing for me.
- And then the male boxer who pummeled the woman in the Women's boxing event was heartbreaking.
- We are living in a broken world, and we might think some things should be safe from all the wickedness evil people are calling good, but not even the Olympics are safe.
- It just reminds me why Jesus did what He did, not just for us, but for those who love the darkness, that they might see the light and repent.
- In today's text we will look at Jesus' prayer to the Father about what is coming and in this we see a side of Jesus not seen before.
- **Matthew 26:36**
- Gethsemane means 'an oil press'.
- Insert picture **Gethsemane – Olive Tree – Matthew 26.36.**
- It is a place filled with olive trees.

- There are trees in this grove today that may have been there when Christ prayed.
- Jesus leaves eight of the disciples at the entrance to the garden and moves deeper in.
- He wants them to pray, probably for Him and what He is about to go through.

- **Matthew 26:37-38**

- Jesus knew what was coming and that knowledge made Him exceedingly sad and distressed. But why?
- As God in the flesh, why would these things coming over the next day, including the crucifixion, cause Him such sadness and distress?
- Because He was God in the flesh, He experienced these things in a way that would be like any other human, except that He also understood the spiritual part of His coming suffering.
- The revelation of Christ's humanity in this text is one of the things that draws us to His deity.
- The disciples had never seen Jesus like this. (**Mark Moore – Chronological Life of Christ**)

“Jesus’ suffering begins in Gethsemane, not Golgotha.”

- Christ suffered in ways most humans will never understand.
- For me, as my understanding grows, my love for Christ grows.
- If you want to love Jesus more, spend some time to really understand what this event in the Garden of Gethsemane teaches us.

- **Matthew 26:39**

- What is the ‘cup’ Jesus is referring to?
- It is the cup of God’s wrath toward the wicked of the world (**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.

- As Jesus hung on the cross, God the Father would lay on sinless Christ all the sins of the whole world (**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.

- And then God would pour out the cup of His wrath upon His perfect Son.

- Jesus did that so that we wouldn't have to experience God's wrath because He loves us (**Romans 5:8**).

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- There are many reasons why the Lord might want the cup to pass from Him, but there is one that I believe is the main reason for His anguish.
- Jesus existed in heaven with God the Father in perfect unity and holiness (**John 17:5**).

And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

- As Christ hung on the cross, Jesus took on our sins, becoming sin for us.
- That was bad enough, but the Father then poured out His wrath on Christ, and in so doing turned away from Him, causing Jesus to exclaim, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'
- For the first time in eternity, God the Father and God the Son were separated.
- '...not as I will, but as You will.'
- Jesus, God the Son is praying to His Father God in heaven.
- One of the mysteries of the faith is the triune nature of God.
- God is One! God exists in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – Three in One!
- Each person of the Godhead is individual but not independent.
- All traits, attributes, and nature are shared by all three persons (**John 10:30-33**).

"I and My Father are one." ³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.

³² Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father.

For which of those works do you stone Me?" ³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

- By saying that He and the Father were one, Jesus was saying they were the same.
- But then Jesus also said (**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.
- As a man, Jesus did not want to take on the sins of the world and be separated from the Father.

- But, as the Suffering Servant of God, what He wanted didn't matter if it was different than what God wanted. (**Mark Moore – Chronological Life of Christ**)

“What troubled Jesus was not the physical torture of a martyr, but the spiritual torment of the God-man experiencing for the first time both the guilt of humanity and separation from the Father.”

- Jesus said, ‘Not My will...’
- That is an important lesson for anyone who claims to be a Christian.
- As Christians, we are all called to serve God in whatever way He made us.
- That is pretty easy when our will is aligned with His will, when He wants us to do something that we want to do.
- It is harder when we don't want to do what He wants us to do.
- We must daily, surrender our will to His and say, just as Jesus said, ‘Not my will, but as you will.’
- Ideally, we ought to be striving to align our will with the Father in heaven. It makes it much easier.
- Jesus is praying so hard that Luke says He sweat great drops of blood.
- We might imagine Peter and the others praying just as hard, right?
- **Matthew 26:40-41**
- I love those tender-hearted people who want to defend the disciples, but if Jesus rebukes them, then there is no good excuse.
- This seems to be directed at Peter, who would this night face a temptation to deny Christ, and he fails spectacularly.
- ‘...spirit...willing...flesh...weak’ – There is a battle that rages inside all believers (**Galatians 5:16-17**).

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

- One of the things they teach you in leadership is devote most of your attention to your strengths and only as much time to your weaknesses to keep them from ruining your leadership.
- The same principle applies here.
- If you spend most of your time growing your faith and learning how to let the Holy Spirit lead you, He will help you deal with your weaknesses.

- If you focus on your weaknesses, you might neglect your faith and not be strong enough to deal with your weaknesses.
- Wake up every morning and lay your will down and ask the Holy Spirit to help you become stronger in the spirit.
- If there are areas of weakness, confess them and let God guide you to spiritual strength.
- **Matthew 26:42-44**
- Jesus prayed three times using the ‘same words’.
- There are some who say we should only pray something to God one time.
- They say it is a lack of faith to repeat yourself, since we know God hears us the first time.
- Jesus prayed perfectly, and if He repeated Himself, so should we.
- If it is important to you, keep praying about it until God answers your prayer.
- Just make sure you are praying in faith believing God hears and is able to do something about what you are praying for.
- Jesus prayed three times and God the Father said no to Jesus three times.
- God will tell us no and then we need to respond as Jesus does, He accepts God’s will and moves forward.
- When God says no, He is not rejecting us, He is simply asserting His will over ours.
- Jesus knows that His hour has come, and He faces it with the faith and courage that spending time with the Father in prayer gives you.
- **Matthew 26:45-46**
- Next time, we will look at the first trial of Jesus.
- The calm courage of Christ in the face of evil and betrayal is breathtaking.
- Even that was predicted. (**Isaiah 53:7-8**)
He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

- Jesus, our Savior-King agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane as He prepared to make a way to deal with the problem created in the Garden of Eden.
- What He did for us, by yielding to the will of His Father, He did because of His love for God and for us.
- And knowing that makes me want to show Him my love more and more.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us all do that!
- **Pray! Last Song!**