

## Matthew 26:36-46 - The King's Agony!

Scriptures:

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place

called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples,

“Sit here while I go and pray over there.”

Notes:

'Gethsemane' only appear here and Mark 14:32.

Gethsemane means 'an oil press'. It is a place filled with olive trees. There are trees in this grove today that may have been there when Christ prayed. **Insert picture Gethsemane – Olive Tree – Matthew 26.36.**

'over there' – According to Luke's gospel, 'about a stone's throw.'

Scriptures:

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two

sons of Zebedee, and He began

to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

G3076 -

G85 – be upset,  
be troubled.

Notes:

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.

Scriptures:

38 Then He said to them, “My soul is

Notes:

They had never seen Jesus like this.

“Jesus’ suffering begins in Gethsemane, not Golgotha.” Mark Moore – Chronological Life of Christ – page 599

The revelation of Christ’s humanity in this text is one of the things that draws us to His deity.

exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay

G4035 – overwhelmingly sorrowful. “extremely sad adj. — crushed by grief; understood as if surrounded by sadness.”

here and watch with Me.”

G1127 – stay awake, be alert, be vigilant.

Scriptures:

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.

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.

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 17:5 - And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

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."

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.

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face,

and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is

possible, let this cup pass from Me;

nevertheless, not as I will, but as You 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.

Notes:

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). 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). 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).

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). 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.

Jesus states, 'if it is possible'. Was there another way to save humanity besides Jesus' atoning death on the cross? If there had been, God would have answered Jesus' prayer and we would have been saved by another means. This was the only way.

'...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). By saying that He and the Father were one, Jesus was saying they were the same. But then Jesus also said (John 5:30).

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.

"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." Mark Moore - Chronological Life of Christ - page 600

Scriptures:

40 Then He came to the disciples and found

Notes:

them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What!

Could you not watch with Me one hour?

Scriptures:

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.

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into

Notes:

A trial was coming like none they had ever experienced. Jesus wanted them to be prepared for it and that preparation would come through prayer.

This seems to be directed at Peter, who would this night face a temptation to deny Christ, and he fails spectacularly.

temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but

G3986 – "temptation n. — an examination with the express purpose of producing (or proving) a fault in the examinee."

G4289 – eager.

'...spirit...willing...flesh...weak' – There is a battle that rages inside all believers (Galatians 5:16-17). 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.

the flesh is weak."

G772 – "weak (morally) adjs. — wanting in moral strength, courage, or will."

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.

Scriptures:

42 Again, a second time, He went away and

Notes:

prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup

cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it,

Your will be done."

Scriptures:

43 And He came and found them asleep

Notes:

again, for their eyes were heavy.

Scriptures:

44 So He left them, went away again, and

prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Notes:

Luke's gospel tells us that Jesus agonized in this time of prayer – to the point of sweating great drops of blood.

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 yours.

45 Then He came to His disciples and said to

them, "Are *you* still sleeping and resting?"

Behold, the hour is at hand, and the

Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands

of sinners.

Scriptures:

46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at

Notes:

hand.”

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