

## Gethsemane

Mark 14:32-42

Series: Christ our Focus

### 1. Introduction:

- a. The relinquishment of Jesus' body on Golgotha depends on the prior surrender of his will to the Father
- b. The decision to submit to the Father's will causes Jesus greater internal suffering than the physical crucifixion on Golgotha.
- c. This prayer at Gethsemane reveals the true agony of bearing the sins for the humanity.
  - i. It reveals what our sins truly cost.

### 2. Verses 32-35 –The Agony of Bearing Sin

- a. Jesus enters Gethsemane with his disciples
- b. This place is a familiar place for Jesus and his followers to gather
- c. To eight disciples he beckons to “sit and pray”
  - i. Only twice before has Mark recorded Jesus praying alone.
  - ii. The prayers of Jesus in Mark are all set in times of decision and crises, this being the most traumatic.
- d. Then Jesus goes a bit further and takes the three Peter, James, John
  - i. Each of the inner circle has boasted of his love and devotion.
  - ii. Each has resolutely looked for his own advancement over the others.
  - iii. Each should, by their own confession, be willing to suffer in prayer with Christ.
- e. Jesus then goes off alone and is beset by intense spiritual affliction
  - i. He began to be greatly distressed and troubled
    1. Overwhelmed.
  - ii. “My soul is sorrowful even to death.”
    1. Nothing in all of the bible compares to the anguish and agony experienced by Jesus during this time of prayer.
    2. **Luke 22:44** And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
- f. Why is Jesus so assaulted by his impending death?
  - i. Many people have faced their own death with more resoluteness than what we see of Jesus.

- ii. Why does Jesus, who has foreseen his death and marched resolutely to Jerusalem to meet it, now tremble before it?
  1. **Mark 10:32** And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him,

g. The answer:

- i. Jesus is aware of facing something more than simply his own death.
- ii. Jesus has to will to become the sin-bearer for humanity.
- iii. It is one thing to answer for our own sins before a holy and almighty God; who can imagine what it would be like to stand before God to answer for every sin and crime and act of malice and injury and cowardice and evil in the world?
- iv. Jesus must experience abandonment and darkness of cosmic proportions.
  1. This is the worst of all of the prospect, complete alienation from God the Father.
  2. **Mark 15:34** And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lemasabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- v. Christ must become the object of God's wrath.
  1. **2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

3. Verse 36 –

- a. Jesus calls God “Abba” a term of intimacy, trust, and affection
- b. Christ and the cup.
  - i. Is it possible for Jesus to fulfill god's will in all ways but this one, or in some other way?
  - ii. Perhaps, as with Isaac, the sacrifice can be averted even though the arm of Abraham is raised for the dagger's plunge.
  - iii. Nevertheless, his will to obey the Father is stronger than his desire to serve himself.

4. Verse 37-39 – The disciples spiritual hour of danger

- a. The disciples are also in danger
- b. “Watch and pray,” is the test, the disciples fail that test and fall asleep.

- i. Three times Jesus finds them asleep, and Peter denies the Lord three times.
  - c. The admonition to “watch and pray,” for “the spirit is willing, but the body is weak” is a necessary reminder that trusting and obeying God are not default responses of disciples of Jesus, but ongoing struggles against temptation and weakness.
- 5. Verses 40-42 –
  - a. Again he found them sleeping – they had ignored the very command to be watchful. They could not answer because there is no excuse to ignore the call to intimate and abiding prayer.
    - i. **Ephesians 6:18** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
  - b. “Rise! Let us go!” Jesus’ resolve to meet his fate brings the disciple to their feet, if not to their senses.
  - c. Irony: When Jesus feels most excluded from God’s presence he is in fact closest to God’s will.
- 6. Benediction:
  - a. **2 Timothy 1:8-9** Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, (9) who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,