

“The Battle of Gethsemane”

Mark 14:32-41

In the Garden of Gethsemane, we see our Lord engaged in a great spiritual battle. When Mark 14:33 says He was “troubled” the Greek word ἐκθαμβέω ekthambeo means He was thrown into terror and thoroughly AMAZED! When He is described as “deeply distressed” the Greek term used there – ἀδημονέω ademoneo refers to the most intense degree of depressions! When Jesus Himself claims “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death” We know our Lord always spoke perfect truth and never used even slight exaggeration. The Greek word He used in Mark 14:34 περίλυπος perilupos, meant Jesus was surrounded by sorrows, even overwhelmed, as if by a pack demonic wolves!

When Luke describes Jesus’ actual prayer, he says –
⁴⁴ **And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:44 NKJ)**

What caused our LORD such distress?

I. His accurate, very real view and knowledge of sin –

1. Jesus saw sin for what it really is –

Sin is described in Scripture –

A. In terms of dog’s vomit – 2 Peter 2:22

B. “ “ snake poison – Romans 3:13

C. “ “ dread deadly disease – Isaiah 1:5-6

Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints.⁶ From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment. (Isaiah 1:5-6 NKJ)

D. “ “ Leaven – 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

E. We see this: Adam and Eve’s sin brings the curse and death, Cain the first man born into the world kills his brother Abel!

F. By Genesis 5 we read over and over again “and he died” ... “and he died”

"Sin is the living worm, the lasting fire;
Hell soon would lose its heat, could sin expire.

Better sinless is hell, than to be where
Heaven is, and to be found a sinner there.
One sinless with infernals might do well,
But sin would make of heaven a very hell.
Look to thyself then, keep it out of door,
Lest it get in and never leave thee more.
"Fools make a mock at sin, will not believe
It carries such a dagger in its sleeve;
How can it be, say they, that such a thing,
So full of sweetness, err should wear a sting?
They know not that it is the very spell
Of sin, to make them laugh themselves to hell.
Look to thyself, then, deal with sin no more,
Lest He who saves, against thee shuts the door. "

— JOHN BUNYAN.

2. We know sin as those who are under its spell –

A. Scripture speaks of a sort of “pleasure” of sin – Hebrews 11:24-25

B. Yet, even we have a conscience, which should cause us PAIN when we sin –

Then those who heard *it*, being convicted by *their* conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest *even to the last*. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. (John 8:9 NKJ)

who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) (Romans 2:15 NKJ)

C. Yet, repeated sin, not recognizing God, leads to God’s judgment, the searing of conscience, even a kind of spiritual leprosy where we can walk FEARLESSLY, without qualms of conscience into the worst sins –

And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; (Romans 1:28 NKJ)

Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day." (Romans 11:8 NKJ)

- *Dr. Paul Brand's Hansen's Disease patients*
- *My own experience with a poor older lady*
- *Our senselessness in regard to the PAIN and TERROR of sin!*
- *Jesus had no such stupidity! He had a perfectly functioning spiritual nervous system!*

II. Jesus knew His mission was to be "made sin" for us –
For He made Him who knew no sin *to be sin* for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJ)

1. *This was Jesus' mission from the beginning –*
"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21 NKJ)

⁸ ... written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev 13:8 NKJ)

2. *Jesus knew this very well –*
²⁷ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? `Father, save Me from this hour '? But for this purpose I came to this hour. (John 12:27 NKJ)

^{NKJ} Matthew 26:1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, *that* He said to His disciples, ² "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." (Mat 26:1-2 NKJ)

- A. *Jesus foresaw the crucifixion and all its pains*
- B. *Worse yet, He surely knew as it was prophesied that His Father Whom He LOVED, Who LOVED Him would turn His face from Him –*

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? (Psalm 22:1 NKJ)

C. *Surely, as He foresaw and knew of the Satanic attack on Peter, He would know of any of the same kind of attacks on Himself –*
³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. ³² "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren." (Luke 22:31-32 NKJ)

III. Note, Our Lord handles this spiritual struggle, the pre-work before His cross, with PRAYER –

1. *It was a humble prayer –*
³⁵ He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed (Mark 14:35 NKJ)

2. *It was an intimate, prayer of faith –*
³⁶ And He said, "Abba, Father, all things *are* possible for You. (Mark 14:36 NKJ)

3. *It was a submissive prayer –*
Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You *will*." (Mark 14:36 NKJ)

4. *It was a persistent prayer –*
⁴⁴ So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. (Mat 26:44 NKJ)

5. *It was a fervent prayer –*
⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:44 NKJ)

6. *It was a lonely prayer –*
³⁷ Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? (Mark 14:37 NKJ)

⁴⁰ And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.
⁴¹ Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. (Mark 14:40-41 NKJ)

7. *It was an effective prayer –*
⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. (Luke 22:43 NKJ)

All this was for us –
And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:8 NKJ)