

24 March 2022

The Struggle of Gethsemane and the Horror of the Cross

**John 3:16-17: The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ into the world to save ungodly, unworthy sinners is the single greatest event for the history of fallen humanity!**

The sufferings and death of the Jesus, Son of Man, on the bloody cross of Golgotha is the greatest and most precious of all deaths... WHY because it was the greatest demonstration of LOVE ever witnessed by the world! The sweet fragrance and aroma of His perfect life, His love for sinners, and His sinless sacrifice continues to fill heaven and please God the Father FOR ALL who will turn from their sins and come to trust the crucified and risen Christ! Come with me to the Holy Ground, FIRST to Gethsemane, and then to the darkness of Golgotha! Matthew 26:36-46

**At this point the Lord Jesus had eaten His final Passover with His (12) apostles, Judas Iscariot had already departed, but NOW he was leading a band of men/soldiers to where he knew he would find Jesus and the (11).**

Here in Gethsemane, Jesus began to enter the darkness of His sufferings as He grappled with what He knew to be His Father's will; never before do we read of our Lord being so conflicted, struggling in prayer like we see Him here in Gethsemane as He pondered His cross, and what MUST take place between He and His Father!

He knew this to be the determinate counsel of foreknowledge of God His Father! That He MUST suffer and die at the hands of sinful men, TO SAVE His people from their sins! But the approaching reality greatly disturbed Him!

His will had always been in perfect accord with His Father's will, but now, He struggled mightily and was terrified, full of sorrow with what He knew was coming on His cross IN THAT which he had never experienced from His Father toward Him personally! Psalms 69:1-3, 14-20

**As we stop upon this Holy Ground of Gethsemane, we MUST see the Lord Jesus (3 times) going a little distance (a stones' cast) from His disciples, ALONE, AFRAID, weakened physically, falling to the ground as He cried out to His Father in what was no doubt a prayer of conflict.**

He STRUGGLED in His Spirit as the hour of His cross drew near, but it wasn't the shame, insults, or getting spit upon that was so grievous to Him, "He DESPISED the shame" of all of that; NO, it was the cup that His Father had appointed for Him to take up and drink, THAT is what He struggled with! Three times did our Lord, go to the throne of His Father, praying, crying out to see IF THERE WAS ANY OTHER WAY!

(26:39): "Oh my Father, IF IT BE POSSIBLE, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt"

(26:42): Oh, my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done".

(26:44): He prayed the same words the 3<sup>rd</sup> time! Mark 14:32-36

He was "Sore Amazed", which means He was astonished and afraid! But could this be our Lord Jesus Christ and the Captain of our salvation?

How do we process this struggle and conflict that we see in our Lord? What was it that terrified Him so much? What was in THIS CUP that He was so averse to, what was it that He dreaded so much?

Listen to His prayer as Mark records, ABBA, Father, all things are possible unto thee; TAKE AWAY THIS CUP FROM ME!

I cannot bear to drink it, Father! This struggle in His Spirit was so difficult that it affected Him physically, the overwhelming stress and sorrow of what was before Him in His death was so great that the blood vessels under His skin began to rupture and His sweat became bloody!

Luke tells us that an angel was dispatched from heaven to strengthen Him, and it was after the ANGEL strengthened Him, that He prayed MORE EARNESTLY, agonizing in prayer over this cup that He must drink!

Luke 22:39-44, Hebrews 5:7-9

**Child of God: I want you to SEE the weight of the guilt and punishment yours/my sins being imputed to Him, put on His account, & MADE His responsibility...LOOK at what it did IN HIM,**

Look at how averse He was to the thought of His Father's indignation and wrath being poured out upon His Holy Soul, see how sorely it vexed Him in His Spirit! Isaiah 53:6; How could we ever find any pleasure in any sin which so terrified our Lord and caused such agony in His Spirit?

When He would take up THIS CUP of the indignation and wrath of Almighty God, He would be violently severed from His Father! The intimacy and communion and love and joy that He always been toward Him from His Father, would be supplanted by His Father's fury and indignation and wrath for the sins of the world!

It would be my sins that would cause His Father to turn from Him, forsake Him, and crush Him in His wrath! At this point it began to be MORE than He could bare... THUS, He was at the point of questioning His Father will!

Here, I think He began taste the terrors of death and eternal damnation!

**Christian, I hope you can see how abhorrent and terrible your sins were and are in the BITTERNESS of this cup that our Lord so**

**valiantly took up from His Father...AND He drank down every last drop it for the love that He had for ungodly, the worst of sinners and His enemies!**

If the prospect of being forsaken and crushed by the wrath of His Father SO TORMENTED and TERRIFIED my Lord in His Spirit, HOW should EVERY ONE OF US SEE OUR SINS!

Listen to me if you're lost, unforgiven and an impenitent sinner, I pray, in the struggle of the Lord Jesus, that you would SEE your sins as exceedingly sinful before the Holy God of heaven!

If you haven't turned from your sins to Christ, YOU ARE IN GRAVE DANGER! EVERY DAY that you go on in your sins, you are treasuring up unto yourself wrath, YOU ARE SINNING IN THE FACE OF GOD'S GOODNESS! Don't despise the goodness of God! Romans 2:4-10

Psalm 50:21: "These things hast thou done, and I kept silence..."

If you refuse the only Savior for sinners, there is an unspeakable terror, eternal darkness and damnation is what awaits you... once you pass from this life and PASS OVER that GREAT GULF FIXED, you will be in an eternity from whence you cannot return!

This is very bad news, I KNOW, but there is very good news in the gospel of Christ!

LISTEN TO ME and UNDERSTAND that the DEATH of Christ was no normal death; the Lord Jesus was not a normal man, He was perfectly holy, righteous in every way, sinless before both God and Man!

Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death"

And yet here He was, entering into His sufferings for the guilt, penalty of a world of ungodly sinners! To die in the place of unworthy and ungodly sinners! 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 3:36, Romans 1:18

I love what the Lord Jesus told His (11) apostles in John 14:30 after Judas had departed. "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me". He did His worst, he fired his best shots, but he found nothing in me, not one sin! Luke 4:13

**Let us now go to the cross! Mark 15:25-38**

God allowed those at the cross to see the first (3) hours of the sufferings of Christ! But not the last (3) hours! In the first (3) hours the wicked mocked and insulted our Lord, but into that darkness of death which He experienced, in which His Father drew the sword of justice upon Him, no one would enter!

After (3 hours) of the ungodly watching and gazing upon the Lord Jesus, many mocking, scoffing, and hurling insults at Him, at the (6<sup>th</sup> Hour) it was as if the sun said ENOUGH! I will no longer shine in my bright glory upon this horrid and terrible sight; NO MORE will I suffer sinners to jeer and

mock my Creator and Lord and the One who is altogether lovely!

**Then at the (9<sup>th</sup> Hour) the darkness ended, Jesus cried with a loud voice, ELOI! ELOI! lama sabachthani!**

That breach between He and His Father had come, He was severed from Him, now He was ALL ALONE upon the ground of justice. You remember that Abel's blood cried from the ground for justice; Christ's blood shed for ungodly, unworthy sinners' cries, forgive them, Father, FORGIVE THEM! He drank EVERY LAST DROP of that cup! And so made atonement for my sins! He paid the price of redemption in His own blood for the sins of the world! Romans 5:6-11

Listen to me: When Jesus suffered and died for the sins of the world, He tasted a thousand hells, thousands of deaths, and the penalty for a multitude of sinners!

This morning, I want you to understand the vastness of the death of Christ, and the mass of sin that was laid upon His Holy Soul!

Listen to me: If you're lost, you're condemned, you are in grave danger of dying in your sins and suffer the terror eternal damnation for YOUR SINS against God!

**IT'S a travesty for any human soul to reject the good news of Christ's gospel! Especially when you've heard it time and time again!**

What are you waiting for? Isaiah 55:6-7. If you would see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, RUN to the darkness of Christ's Cross on bloody Golgotha, run to the Christ who died for ungodly sinners!

John 6:37, Matthew 11:28