

Matthew 26:36-44

But as You Will

In Gethsemane ...

I. Jesus' Place of Prayer

A. The Lord's Habit

B. In a Crucial Moment

II. Anguished Devotion

A. Sorrowful to Death

B. Anticipating the Cup

III. Ultimate Submission

A. "But As You Will"

B. For the Sake of Sinners

... and the hour has come.

Children, Listen ...

1. What did Jesus regularly go to the Mt. of Olives to do?
2. Why was Jesus so sad?
3. What does the "cup" Jesus mentions stand for?
4. Even though Jesus struggled in His prayer, what did He want most of all?

Unknown Suffering

The simple mention of Gethsemane for students of the Bible evokes a certain emotional heaviness. It is there that Jesus bears His soul before His heavenly Father, select disciples and us. The weight of what Jesus anticipates in just hours is so substantial that it is pressing Him down to the point in which He feels as though He could die right there. Perhaps we can relate to some degree of His anguish as He shares our humanity, but there are aspects of it that are beyond our comprehension. Jesus faces the burden of the cross, an assault to His body and soul untainted by sin. He is anticipating bearing the full weight of the sins of His people and the equivalent wrath that they merit. What he faces brings home our confession that "He descended into Hell." We simply cannot fathom the depths of His "unknown suffering." He will drink the cup of fury so we don't have to, and He does so out of joy in doing the will of the Father and for the love of sinners like us.