

**Title:** The Agony of Gethsemane

**Passage:** Mark 14:32-42

**Context of Passage:**

Jesus and disciples had Passover meal together and left for Gethsemane.

- Thursday around midnight
- Located near Kidron Ravine where could see lambs being slain for Passover. A foreshadow of the forthcoming crucifixion of Jesus as the perfect Passover Lamb

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

- Old Testament prophecy that pointed to the cross

Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

- "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" - pointed to Jesus' agony in Gethsemane
- Gethsemane was where Jesus saw clearly of drinking the full cup of God's wrath.

**Passage:** Mark 14:32-42

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

**EXPOSITION**

**Introduction**

What comes to your mind when consider agony of Gethsemane?

*Do you want to see Jesus?*

- The more you pursue and seek Him, the more He will reveal Himself to you.

John 12:21

So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

When see Jesus more clearly, then:

- We can worship Him more wholeheartedly.
- We suffer more faithfully
- We live more expectedly.

**Mark 14:32**

***And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."***

*Gethsemane*

- Meaning: "oil press"
- located on Mount of Olives

John 18:2

Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples.

- Judas knew the place and where they would be.

John 7:6

Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here.

- Jesus was in complete control of the right timing of His coming betrayal.

**Mark 14:33**

***And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled.***

*Peter, James, John*

- Inner circle of disciples
- Previously: Brought them to see Mount of Transfiguration where saw Jesus glorified seeing His deity.
- Here: Jesus wanted them to witness His agony as well.
  - To reveal their weaknesses.

Mark 10:35-37 (James/John's pride)

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

Matthew 26:33 (Peter's pride)

Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away."

*Greatly distressed*

- Meaning = terrified amazement

*Greatly troubled*

- Meaning = to be anguished beyond description

- How? Feeling out of shudder horror or dreadful prospect before him.
- Synonym = anguish from which there is no escaping

*Question: What caused this emotion in Jesus?*

- A clear vision of forthcoming bearing the full pain and suffering through the crucifixion (scourging, mockery, pain, cross)

*I. Anticipation of experiencing the horror of becoming sin bearer.*

- Jesus bearing the full sin of all onto Himself. Previously, never experienced anything like that.

*II. Jesus will be separated from His Father for the first time in eternity.*

- Jesus previously knew intimacy with the Father.
- Later: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

*III. Jesus knew the divine wrath that would be poured out on Him.*

- Not just physical but mental suffering of sin.

**Mark 14:34**

***And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."***

*My soul is very sorrowful/deeply grieved*

- Meaning = engulfed and surrounded by sorrow
- What Jesus is experiencing is so horrific, he is the point of mental death.

Luke 22:44

And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- sweating with blood = due to extreme stress where blood vessels burst with the sweat glands
- Jesus' extreme stress shown physically.

Luke 22:43

And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

- why? Jesus' mental anguish so great that an angel sent to strengthen Him.

**Mark 14:35**

***And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.***

*He fell on the ground*

- verb tense = a continuing action (He kept falling on the ground)
- Why? The emotional toll on Jesus was great physically and emotionally.

*The hour*

- meaning = the cross (suffering and death by crucifixion)
- Shows His full humanity (mental anguish) and deity (knowing the sacrifice for sin was necessary as "the hour").

**Mark 14:36**

***And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."***

*Abba, Father*

- Term of endearment

*All things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me.*

- Request of whether the Plan of Redemption could be any different.

*Yet not what I will, but what you will.*

- Complete submission to God the Father's will.

Philippians 2:8

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

1 Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

**APPLICATION**

***Go to the throne of grace***

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

***Go with others***

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm,

but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

### ***Look to Jesus***

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- “Run with endurance” = perseverance through difficulty
- How?
  - Looking to Jesus
  - Joy set before Jesus
  - Jesus being in the presence of the Father

Hebrews 12:3

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.