

Mat 26:36-46 *Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."*

- Gethsemane – (olive press) a place of pressing! No place more fitting for what took place that evening. A place familiar with great pressing; great weight; great crushing!
- Gethsemane was a special place! This garden was apparently a favorite place for Jesus and His disciples to meet and to pray, to meditate, and to get some peace and quiet.
- **It's good to have a favorite place!** A special **place of communion with God. A place to meet with Him!**
- This event most likely took place late the evening, maybe 10-11pm, and continued until morning. On the way from Jerusalem we're told they sang a hymn together, probably one of the Hallel Psalms

[37-38] *And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.* (The word for **deeply distressed** (*adēmonein*), meaning **intense discomfort**, **excessively concerned**. It also means being “away from home”. *Mark 14:33 KJV* has the startling phrase **greatly amazed and sore troubled**).

[38] *Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."*

- Jesus is now entering a very difficult time, **the most difficult** time in His life – He wants His closest friends nearby as an encouragement to Him. But **then He must go alone! What has to be done has to be done by Jesus alone, with the Father!** There's nothing anyone could do. No one else could suffer for what He was to go through. *"My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death."*
- A situation, **agony, so intense we could never understand it** – not physical suffering, but internal suffering. Sorrowful – **“encircled” by sorrow! Sorrowful in every direction, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful!**
- Uncomfortable, not at home, distressed, **sorrowful to the very limit of His endurance!** He being pushed to the limit! **Mark 14:33** *And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed.* Amazed, greatly astonished at what He knew was coming.
- **Great agony** - so great **His sweat became great drops of blood!** Not just mental but the pressure is being manifested physically!
- Such **agony so great, that an angel** was dispatched from heaven. An **indescribable pressure on Jesus!**

[39] *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me;*

- Jesus fell on His face – falls to the ground – not because of the physical abuse He will face the next day. What was that something? There was something, not physical, that was pressing down on Him, bringing Him to His knees!
- Vs. 39 **“this cup” – let this cup pass from Me!** It wasn't the physical, His coming death! He did not fear death—that's the reason He came into the world. **Joh 12:27-28** *"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. [28] Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."*
- For this purpose I came for this hour! He did not fear death. This was the very reason He came into the world.
- The bible speaks often of **God's cup of wrath** – **Ps 11:5-6**; *The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. [6] Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup.*
- **Psa 75:8** *For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down.*
- **Isa 51:17** *Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem, You who have drunk at the hand of the LORD The cup of His fury; You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, And drained it out.*
- **Jer 25:15-17** *For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: "Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. [16] And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them." [17] Then I took the cup from the LORD's hand, and made all the nations drink, to whom the LORD had sent me:*
- **This cup refers to the fact of the knowledge on that cross, He would bear all the sins of all of mankind and then bearing our sins, then receiving all the righteous divine judgment that our sins deserved!** - **2Co 5:21** *For He made Him who knew no sin (perfect holiness) to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- Peter said, *1Pe 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*
- Paul wrote, *Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"), It was no small thing for Him, the perfect, Holy, Son of God, to endure for us all our sin and wrath of God because of our sin.*
- The purity of God suddenly **has put upon Him and the justice that it deserves, that we might be forgiven!** Here we are given a glimpse of what He went through, when we say, that Jesus died for our sin.
- How humbling to me, and to you, as well, **that my sin was behind a part of Jesus' agony**, of what He went through! This produces great love for My Savior and close worship, as well! My sins were a part of what He went through and produced this prayer! He bore our sin on that cross.
- **If it is possible** – If what is possible? Our salvation; the forgiveness of our sins; **if there is any other way?** Reveal that to Me now. **What was the answer from heaven? Silence, and then the cross!**
- Heaven's witness, the Father's witness to the fact that **there is no other way** that a man can be forgiven, **apart from faith in Jesus** who paid for my sin. *Heb 5:7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,*
- If anyone says there is another way, they **know nothing about Calvary; nothing about the Bible, nothing of Gethsemane.** That all religions lead to the same place. They need to spend some time with Jesus in this place and situation. It's not found in religion. It's not found in church attendance. It's not found anywhere but in Him! Jesus the Son of God praying three times. What went on inside of Him **will never occur again! This is Holy Ground!** It was silent, then God sent an angel to strengthen Him

[39b] nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

- ***Nevertheless not My will but thy will be done!*** He surrendered. He put all of the agony on one side of the scale, a mountain of it. And let it all go.
- **Salvation is free, but it is not cheap.** Jesus paid a price, impossible to describe, so that we might be free, forgiven and saved!
- Jesus paid an impossible price that we might be saved. *Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- The perfect sinless, Lamb of God, bearing all of the sin of the world.

[40] Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? [41] Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." [42] Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." [43] And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. [44] So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. [45] Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. [46] Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

- The sun begins to rise. The day of His crucifixion is here.
- Then being no other way, He went out to meet His betrayer!

SUMMARY:

- May we, with great love and thanksgiving, beyond description, with great worship, pray to Him!

The Old Rugged Cross – George Bernard – sung by Ernie Ford

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

*Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.*

*To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll share.
(Refrain)*

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