

Gethsemane



*Picture of the Garden of Gethsemane

- Gethsemane means “an oil press”.
- It was located on the Mount of Olives which was an Olive grove.

Matthew 26:36-54

The **humanity** of Jesus

36. Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

37. And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.

38. Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

- Luke 22:44

And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

- This word for “grieved” literally mean to be grieved so much that you could literally die from it.
- Why so much agony?
- Remain with me or “be continually” with me. Jesus could have gone alone, but he brought his 3 closest friends. Somehow their presence was a comfort to Him. Even Jesus desired community.

39. And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

- God whatever you want from me...I will do it.
- Why would Jesus obey even at this cost?
- Not because of punishment. He could have called it off.

- He knew the Father. He knew why he had to obey. It was worth it.

40. And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you *men* could not keep watch with Me for one hour?"

41. "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- You spirit can be willing but that in itself cannot keep you from falling.
- Roman 7
- Peter slept.....Peter drew his sword.....Peter denied.
- God wasn't asking Peter to stay awake to see how well he could endure sleep deprivation.
- It wasn't a physical matter at all...it was spiritual. God wanted Peter to pray!
- He knew what Peter didn't know.
- Peter was in the Climax of His time and he didn't even realize it.
- The question for us is what are we missing? What are we sleeping through?
- God didn't appoint that time for Peter's resting, and God hasn't appointed this time for our spiritual resting.
- We need to be spiritually awake not spiritually asleep.
- **Illustration – High School in Cochebamba, Bolivia.**
- This is how we become aware of what the father is doing. This is how we make the most of every opportunity.

42. He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

- If this is the only way to save mankind I will do it. It's worth it.
- Why did Jesus have to die???
- The only way the Father could make things pure and rights again would be to kill us all.
- As Romans says One died for all and therefore all died.
- He was our substitute.

43. Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

44. And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.

- Jesus came up this second time and he let them sleep, because their eyes were heavy.
- Can you picture this? Jesus is longing for the support, He is about to die, and he let's them sleep.
- I don't know if you can picture this the way that I am but that is love. He had grace in the midst of the greatest trial in his life.

- Jesus was still one with the Father. He had the Father's heart. The kind of heart that loves lazy stupid idiots like us. People like us who can barely keep our eyes open when it's time to press in.
- I mean they couldn't even stand with Christ for even one hour.
- It's strange but I see the love of Christ here in a way that really connects with me.

The **Divinity** of Jesus

45. Then He came to the 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. "Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"

47. While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, *who came* from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48. Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him."

49. Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

50. And Jesus said to him, "Friend, *do* what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

- Why did Jesus call Judas His friend?
- His Pain
 - Judas' greeting "Hail Rabbi" with a kiss, could not be more hypocritical considering his motives, but Jesus' response was loving and in sharp contrast.
 - Was Jesus betrayed by his friend? I think we have seen Judas in many ways, but not as Christ's friend.
 - Was this one of the causes of Jesus agony? Jesus spoke often of his coming betrayer, I mean it was on his mind, but then he calls him his friend.
 - Haven't we all felt at times betrayed? Not all of us have felt the cut of being betrayed by someone that we care deeply about or even love. This alone is agonizing.
- His Grace
 - Remember at the last supper. Jesus talks of His betrayer and He tells Judas that He knows it's him. He says Woe to that man, for it would be better that he had never been born.
 - We have often interpreted this as "Judas, you're screwed and I always knew it."
 - This doesn't add up with Jesus calling Him friend.

- Jesus was reaching out to Judas. He knew that Judas was going to betray Him, but He wanted Judas to know that that didn't have to be the end of the story. Judas could have repented. Even after the outward betrayal had taken place, the inward betrayal could have dealt with.
- It is never never never too late.

51. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

52. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.

53. "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

- I don't think Jesus is telling Peter that there is never a need for a sword. Only days earlier he told the disciples to sell their extra tunic and buy a sword.
- The point was that if Peter had been praying instead of sleeping he would have known what the Father was doing.
- You are missing the point Peter. You cannot fight against God with a sword.
- I could stop this anytime I wanted to.
- Interesting - "If I appealed to my Father", God would have allowed Jesus to be rescued if He wanted to.

54. "How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, *which say* that it must happen this way?"

John 18:1-9

1. When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples.

2. Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples.

3. Judas then, having received the *Roman* cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

4. So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"

5. They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am *He*." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.

6. So when He said to them, "I am *He*," they drew back and fell to the ground.

- The word was εγω ειμι which is “The I Am”. This phrase was only used for God. It is the same word that God uses when Moses asks for His name.

7. Therefore He again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene."

8. Jesus answered, "I told you that I am *He*; so if you seek *Me*, let these go their way,"

9. to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one."

- Jesus let these soldiers know that they were arresting Him, but they were in no way taking authority over Him.
- Jesus may have used His authority here to bargain for the lives of His disciples.
- Jesus was not going to let them be punished with Him. It wasn't their time.

In these passages we see Jesus for who He really was....100% God and 100% Human.

In His humanity Jesus was like us.

- He battled with God.
- He was probably more afraid than you or I will ever be. (There are those)
- He was betrayed by His friend.
- He needed support from His community.

In His divinity we see Jesus eternal identity.

- He was always in control. No one took Jesus life from Him. He gave it away. (Jesus is King and there is no higher authority)
- He could have called angels and they could have slaughtered those Soldiers and Judas and the religious leaders.
- He could have ridden in on His white horse and judged them on the spot.
- **He chose not to. He chose to do what needed to be done.**
- Guys if Jesus didn't chose this we would all be damned!
- Next week – The Crucifixion.