

Sermon Discussion

20 June 2021

Read Matthew 26:36-46

Dig Deeper

The word “Gethsemane” means “oil press.” This olive press was in an olive grove where Jesus and His disciples had been before (*John 18:1-2*). It’s interesting that Peter and the disciples had just boasted of their strength while Jesus told them they were weak (v. 31-35). In contrast, Jesus sensed His weakness and made plans to gain strength from His Father. This section of the text is full of contrasts involving strength and weakness (*read 2 Cor. 12:9-10*).

The soul mentioned in v. 38 (**Greek “psyche”**) represents the whole person. Jesus meant that He felt sorrow so deeply that it seemed it would almost kill Him. He did not mean that He was so sad He wished He were dead. Jesus’ words recall the refrain of *Psalms 42:5, 11 and 43:5*, which He probably had in mind. He shared these feeling with the chosen three disciples to encourage them to watch and pray with Him.

D.A. Carson writes, “In the first garden ‘Not your will but mine’ changed Paradise to desert and brought man from Eden to Gethsemane. Now ‘Not my will but yours’ brings anguish to the man who prays it but transforms the desert into the kingdom and brings man from Gethsemane to the gates of glory.”

1. Have you struggled or are you currently struggling with “unanswered” prayer? Do you feel like God as told you “no” or is He waiting to answer? Why would He do this?
2. As He prayed in the Garden, how much do you think Jesus knew about what was about to happen? We can only speculate here, but what do you imagine to be His most significant concerns at this time?
3. Read Philippians 4:6-7. How does this help you understand anxiety and fear?
4. Why couldn't Jesus' disciples stay awake to keep watch? What factors do you think contributed to the disciples' falling asleep when He needed them?
5. Why did Christ have to drink this cup of God's wrath? Why was there no other way? Why was it not possible for the cup to pass away from Jesus?

Application & Prayer

- Take some time to thank Jesus for the choice He made in Gethsemane. Think about how His Father strengthened Him for what He endured. Ask that God would do the same for you and give you faith to trust Him.
- Maybe you are at a similar crossroads like Gethsemane. Ask someone to pray over you to submit to God's will.
- Meditate on this: *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* Matthew 6:9-13