

Series: Jesus, At Night #1673

Title: Mark 14.32-36

*Gethsemane*

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. We return to meet with the Lord Jesus Christ, in the dark after midnight, on the day of His crucifixion. Let me read our text, Mark 14, verses 32-36 as a start. **"They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, 'Sit here until I have prayed.' <sup>33</sup> And [the Lord] took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> And [Jesus] said to them, 'My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.' <sup>35</sup> And [the Lord] went a little beyond *them*, and fell to the ground and *began* to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. <sup>36</sup> And [Jesus] was saying, 'Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.'"**

What is it that has made Christ "very distressed and troubled" and "deeply grieved to the point of death"? It is that here, by Himself in this private garden, having fallen to the ground and begun to pray, Christ confronts the reality that on the cross He is going to bear the wrath of holy God for the countless sins that we who believe in Him commit every single day of our lives. I want you to notice that in verse 36 Jesus prays, "Remove this cup from Me." The reference to "this cup" is the cup of God's justified wrath against sinners. God is so perfectly holy that He must judge sinners. Not one of us can escape the judgment of God on our lives. And judgment day is coming fast.

The cup is full of God's wrath. We know this because we know our Old Testament. I do not want to blitz you with many texts, so let me share just two. Psalm 75, verse 8, **"For a cup is in the hand of the Lord, and the wine foams; it is well mixed, and He pours out of this; surely all the wicked of the earth must drain and drink down its dregs."** Notice how the wicked must drain the cup of His wrath. God's going to pour His righteous anger down the throats of unrepentant sinners. And Isaiah chapter 51, verse 17, **"Rouse yourself! Rouse yourself! Arise, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the Lord's hand the cup of His anger; the chalice of reeling you have drained to the dregs."** You heard it, the chalice of God's anger, the cup of His indignation they must drink it until it is empty.

The cup in Mark 14, verse 36 refers us to the cup or the chalice of God's wrath. But the thing is, here, *Jesus is the One who will drink of this cup!* Did you hear me? Capture this and let it affect you: *Jesus is the One who will drink of this cup!* If you are a Christian, Jesus has drunk the cup of God's wrath on your behalf. He drained it to the dregs, on the cross, so *you* do not have to. (So I do not have to drink it.) Hebrews 9, verse 28, **"Christ...offered once to bear the sins of many."** And Isaiah chapter 53 and verse 10, **"The Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief..."** Oh I hope you will not let the truth of these Scriptures pass you by. Friends, it pleased God the Father to crush God the Son, putting Jesus to grief to pay in full the penalty for all our sins! *This* is what has so deeply disturbed Jesus Christ in Gethsemane and sent Him to passionate prayer. He knows the plan is for Him to drink the cup of God's wrath.

And for someone as perfectly holy as Jesus, for someone who never, ever sinned (not even one time) to drink the cup of God's wrath? We should expect Christ to have this reaction. We should expect Him to pray like this. And sure enough, when we fast forward a little in the text, to those moments on the cross, we read this, Mark 15, verse 34, **"At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which is translated, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'"** Indeed, Christ was abandoned by God as He drank every drop of God's holy wrath hanging on that cross. And who did He drink it for? For you. For me. If we believe in Him. There are not words to describe the power and significance of this for us.

Mark says Jesus prayed the garden prayer three times. Verse 39 of Mark 14, **"Again [Jesus] went away and prayed, saying the same words."** Verse 36, "[Jesus] was saying, 'Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.'"

A few comments about the content of the prayer having understood what the cup means. Jesus begins, "Abba! Father!" Abba, as we have said many times before on *God Is*, this is an Aramaic way to express an endearing and intimate relationship with God the Father. The equivalent in English is "Daddy" or "Dada" or "Papa." Jesus always prayed to God as His Father and here appeals again to God's deep seated love for Him. Jesus continues, "All things are possible for You." Of course this is true. God is omnipotent. He absolutely has the power to accomplish redemption for sinners some other way. "Remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

I *love* this. The Son of God is saying to Father God, my prayer is that You will remove the cup from Me. I am asking if redemption can be accomplished some other way, *but* if not, if this is Your will, Father, then I will do Your will. I will obey You. And Philippians 2, verse 8 tells us, "**He [Christ] humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**" As we know, this was God's will. This was God's way. And our Lord, having prayed, accepted His destiny and willingly went to the cross just a few hours later. He died a wretched death *for us*.

Listen to the convicting and sobering insights of F.W. Krummacker, "[Jesus'] agony was caused by His horror of sin, by amazement at the abominations of our misdeeds. The transgressions which were divinely imputed to Him, that He might suffer for them as the Representative of sinners, crowd into the sphere of His vision in the most glaring light. His view of them is very different from the view taken of them by man in his darkened state. They present themselves to His holy eyes in their naked deformity, in their unutterably abominable nature, and in their soul-destroying power.

In sin, He sees the apostasy from the Almighty, daring rebellion against the Eternal Majesty, and base revolt against the will and law of God; and surveys, at one view, all the horrible fruits and results of sin, in the curse, death, and endless perdition. How was it possible that the pure and holy soul of Jesus, at the sight of such horrors, should not tremble and shudder, and be seized with a nameless abhorrence, of which we, who are so deeply infected by sin, have no conception (*The Suffering Saviour*, 113)."

I hope these wise and insightful words are impacting you. He continues, "Besides the abominable nature of sin, the Lord experienced its curse...He feels Himself a culprit before God. All that is implied in being separated from God, deprived of His favor, estranged from His affection, and a child of wrath, He feels deeply, inwardly, and vitally...His soul is unconscious to God's presence, and tastes only the pain and distress of abandonment (115)." End of the quotation.

Wow. I am blown away by these words, because I feel they capture as best any English words can, what was happening within Christ's soul on this night of prayer in Gethsemane. And when we really, seriously think of all this means for us, we are left speechless. *Look at how Jesus Christ views sin, friends! Remember the price He paid to take away our sins!* We treat sin so lightly, with such insignificance. Sin in the church, among believers, is tolerated. Sin in the culture, outside the church is wholeheartedly embraced and blessed and encouraged. But sin for God is judged!

One more word from Krummacker, "Gethsemane will make it evident what sin is. Look at Jesus. He did no sin, but only took upon Him that [sin] of others. How did it fare with Him (117)?" I urge you to let these penetrating thoughts blast through the core of your soul. Listen to this again, from [godisministry.org](http://godisministry.org). Click "Read Along." Download this manuscript and read it for yourself. [Godisministry.org](http://Godisministry.org). Join us next time because God Is.

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