

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

47- Agony in the Garden

Mark 14:32-42

Mark 14:32-42 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. 33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; 34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. 35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt. 37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? 38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. 39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. 40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him. 41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

We know and as Christians have thought thru the agony of Jesus on the cross as He bled and died. We look in on a scene that plays out under the cover of darkness in which it could be said that the psychologically anguish was as great here as the physical anguish was on the cross.

We return back to the time between Peter's boast and his failure. You will recall that after Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper that they went to the Mount of Olives. So these next events play out in the darkness of the garden while Judas is busy consummating the plans for the betray of Jesus which will happen shortly.

I- Into the Garden:

Mark 14:32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. 33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John.

There would have been a large number of individuals traveling with Jesus. He narrows down the group to only the few that have been called His inner circle. Peter, James and John go with Him deeper into the garden. Those who are in the inner circle would see things that the other did not.

Does Jesus have inner circles today? Or another way of asking this is who can be close to Him today? May I say that Christ wants the relationship with us that draws us in close to Him. His desire is that all who come to Him for salvation would grow deeper and closer. His invitation is for us to come closer.

II- Weakness of Flesh:

So what prevents this closeness? The same thing that plagued the three that went with Jesus.

Mark 14:33b ...and began to be sore amazed, 34 and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

Jesus asks the disciples, remember now it is just three with Him, to watch because the agony in the garden is pressing heavy on Him. He became exceeding sorrowful unto death which is translated in other translations "distressed and troubled, distressed and horrified."

It is in these moments we see the fullness of the human nature of Jesus. Jesus was sorrowful with the agony that was almost to the point of death with its crushing weight.

We see from the entire text that Jesus went to pray three times. We will look at Him praying in a moment but let's skip ahead and notice the failure of the inner circle. Jesus goes and prays the first time and returns.

Mark 14:37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? 38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

He found them asleep and asked Peter if he could not stay awake for an hour to watch and pray. He tells them that the spirit is willing, perhaps taking a little of the sting of rebuke away, but he weakness is in the flesh.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

The problem that most of us have in serving is not our desire and our spirit being willing but the flesh keeps getting in the way. There is warfare constantly with our adamic nature. We must constantly make a decision to do what is best and not what we want in the flesh.

Mark 14:39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. **40** And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him.

You can almost hear the loneliness in this narrative. Jesus was close by the others but the agony was fully His in the garden. Jesus went away for the third time to pray and we will discover in a moment that when He returned they were fast asleep.

III- Is There Any Other Plan?

Mark 14:35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Did Jesus have to die? Could not God have made some other plan that would have satisfied His righteousness and justice as well? Jesus asked for the cup to pass, or for this suffering to not have to be, if there was any other way. The answer comes in the form of silence from heaven because there was no other way for salvation to be procured for mankind apart from His suffering.

We see what has often been said to be the victory of the cross being won in the garden. Jesus surrenders His life for us that night. He said to the Father, not my will but what is needed according to you will be done.

It is spoken of often in the New Testament and in fact Jesus spoken often that this hour was coming. **John 7:30** Then they tried to seize Him. Yet no one laid a hand on Him because His hour had not yet come.

Jesus said in **John 12:27-28 HCSB** "Now My soul is troubled. What should I say--Father, save Me from this hour? But that is why I came to this hour. **28** Father, glorify Your name!" Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again!"

This hour coming was fulfilling the purpose of Jesus coming to seek and to save the lost. The cross is getting closer.

IV- Time for Betrayal:

Mark 14:41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

The third time Jesus went away and prayed He also returned to the disciples who were asleep again. He tells them to take this opportunity to rest because the time of betrayal is here.

Does it not seem like a different tenor in the voice of Jesus? The victory of the garden is won, the surrender is complete. The boots are sounding on the pathway of the soldiers. The agony of the garden gives way to the cross.

This suffering in the garden was my suffering. This agony was agony for my sins and for redemption of my soul and yours as well. Praise God for the victory of the garden.