

**Matt. 26:36-46:** Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, & he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> And taking with him Peter & the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful & troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, & watch with me." <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face & prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." <sup>40</sup> And he came to the disciples & found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch & pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, he went away & prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." <sup>43</sup> And again he came & found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy <sup>44</sup> So, leaving them again, he went away & prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples & said to them, "Sleep & take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, & the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

**Intro:** Last Sunday we saw that after Jesus & His disciples sang a hymn & went to the Mount of Olives, Jesus warned His disciples that they would all fall away. There's only one hero in the Bible! Jesus never fell away, but on that cross He was cast away, so that you shall never fall away, so trust and obey! Today, we see Jesus enter into His suffering for sinners in a way He never has before as He considers what He will face on the cross. Gethsemane helps us see the horror of the cross!

Jesus endured the horror of horrors so that you might be given the joy of joys, so watch & pray that you might obey!

### **1. The Pressed Christ**

**a. Gethsemane means oil press:** Jesus went with His disciples to the Mount of Olives, & they go to a garden called Gethsemane which means oil press. Olive oil was used in Jesus' day for lighting lamps, cooking, anointing kings in Israel, & grain offerings. It's used in the Bible to point to abundance, satisfaction, & joy:

- **Jer. 31:12:** They shall come & sing aloud on the height of Zion, & they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, & the oil . . . & they shall languish no more.

- **Heb. 1:9:** You have loved righteousness & hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.

Jesus is our light; He is our food; He is our anointed Christ; He is our sacrifice; He is our abundance, joy, & satisfaction

**b. Jesus was crushed & pressed like olives when making olive oil:** To make olive oil, the olives had to be crushed & pressed to cause the oil to come out. And we see the beginnings of Jesus being crushed & pressed here in Gethsemane: **Vs. 37-39:** he began to be sorrowful & troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death" . . . going a little farther he fell on his face & prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

- **Lk. 22:42-44:** "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; & his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- **Isa. 53:10:** Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him [Take heart: Jesus can sympathize with you in trials!]

### **2. The Praying Christ**

**a. In His greatest distress, Jesus prayed:** Where did the Son of God, the God-Man, the greatest Man Who ever lived, the only perfectly sinless Man go when He was deeply distressed about what He would face on the cross? He went to God in prayer! May we imitate Him in this! May we be quick to flee to God in prayer – may God always be our first resort, our first thought, our first hope & help we go to always (at any time) & in times of trouble.

- **Phil. 4:6-7:** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & your minds in Christ Jesus.

- **Hymn:** Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care

And bids me at my Father's throne, make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer! [May we imitate Jesus in this: pray!]

**b. In His greatest distress, Jesus kept praying:** Jesus prayed three times in our text! He prayed over & over again! He didn't stop praying at one prayer. His whole life was a life of prayer, & we get a picture of that prayer life here:  
- **Lk. 18:1:** he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray & not lose heart.  
- **Matt. 26:40:** So, could you not watch with me one hour? [Have you ever prayed for one hour in your life?]

**c. In His greatest distress, Jesus prayed honestly:** Jesus was honest with His Father! He was honest about His thoughts, feelings, & desires! "Please, if it's possible, let's save the world another way!" Jesus prayed honestly!

We should pray honestly as well. God already knows what you're thinking & desiring! Tell Him what He already knows! And realize you may have to repent for what you are telling Him! Learn from Jesus: "Your will be done!"

**d. Even Jesus did not have all of His prayers answered:** God did not answer Jesus' prayer to take the cup of the cross away! God did not answer all the prayers of the perfectly sinless God-Man Who has perfect faith!

The prosperity teachers are liars when they say if you just have enough faith, God will give you what you ask. God knows best – trust Him when He doesn't answer your prayers. Learn from Jesus: "Your will be done!" **GOSPEL!**

**e. Jesus prayed to His Father:** Jesus the Son, & the Father are distinct Persons in the Trinity!

### **3. The Puny Disciples**

**Matt. 26:37-38, 40-41, 43-46:** taking with him Peter & the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful & troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, & watch with me." . . .  
<sup>40</sup> And he came to the disciples & found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour?" <sup>41</sup> Watch & pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." . . .  
<sup>43</sup> And again he came & found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy <sup>44</sup> So, leaving them again, he went away & prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples & said to them, "Sleep & take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, & the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand." [**Duncan:** They boast of dying with Christ: they can't even stay awake!]

**a. Jesus wanted His disciples to be with Him:** Jesus wanted the support, presence, & witness of Peter, James, & John (sons of Zebedee) in the midst of this great trial & suffering. Reminder: we need each other in the fight!

**b. Peter, James, & John gave in to the weakness of the flesh:** They are puny! They are not giving in to the flesh as far as sexual sin or other evil desires. They just can't stay awake & watch with Jesus!

- **1 Cor. 9:24-27:** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body & keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

- **1 Tim. 4:7:** train yourself for godliness

Jesus endured the horror of horrors so that you might be given the joy of joys, so watch & pray that you might obey!

### **4. The Perfect Christ**

Have you ever struggled to understand why Jesus prayed the way He did in the Garden of Gethsemane? Why would Jesus ask for the cross to be taken away – let this cup pass! Many Christians have died in boldness! Do we have a puny Christ here? Is Jesus' way of praying showing us the weakness of His humanity?

- **Martyrs like Hugh Latimer:** A British pastor who was burnt at the stake during the reign of Mary I of England. "Be of good cheer, master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle in England, as I hope, by God's grace, shall never be put out."

No martyr has ever faced what Jesus faced! Jesus faced the wrath of God! Jesus faced the horrible reality of being made sin! Jesus faced the reality of being shut out of His Father's presence! And Jesus reacted the way perfect humanity should react when faced with what Jesus faced! **Jesus is a man!** But this prayer was not Jesus' human weakness peeking out. This was Jesus' human perfection, glory, & strength shining forth – bright like the sun!

**a. Jesus feared God perfectly:**

**1) What is the cup?: Isa. 51:17:** Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of His wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering.

**2) What is the content of the cup: Isa. 53:4-5, 10:** Surely He has borne our griefs & carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, & afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, & with His stripes we are healed . . . Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief

Jesus faced the reality of suffering the punishment of millions & millions of eternal hell's combined in a matter of hours on that cross!

**3) Jesus Feared God, Who can cast both body & soul into hell:** In Gethsemane, Jesus was obeying with utmost perfection this command which He had given to others: **Matt. 10:28:** do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul & body in hell.

You see, Jesus, more than any other, knew the fullness of the terrors of the wrath of Almighty God. Jesus feared God with a perfect fear, & He knew the horrors of coming face to face with this unquenchable wrath. For this reason, He pled to be freed from this dreaded curse on the cross.

Do you have a righteous fear of God alone? (Children, you don't need to fear the dark!; Woman at Walmart)

**b. Jesus hated sin passionately & perfectly:**

**1) Jesus hated sin: Psalm 97:10:** O you who love the LORD, hate evil!

**2) Jesus was made sin on that cross: Isa. 53:6, 12:** the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all . . . yet he bore the sin of many

- **2 Co. 5:21:** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

**3) Think of the absolute hatred Jesus would have toward the reality of being made sin:**

**Hugh Martin:** [Jesus was made] out to be the chiefest & the most heavy laden of transgressors!

**Think of it:** All the sins of all those who would ever repent & believe in Him were imputed to or counted as Jesus' sins! Murder, adultery, rape, lust, racism, child molestation, genocide, child abuse, abortion, homosexual acts, pride, idolatry, lack of contentment, gossip, grumbling & complaining, disobedience to parents & all other sins imaginable that redeemed sinners have and will commit were credited to Jesus & punished in Him on the cross

- Jesus was made murder; Jesus was made adultery; Jesus was made rape; Jesus was made racism; Jesus was made sexual immorality; Jesus was made abortion; Jesus was made all your & my vile sins so that we could be saved!

- When the holiest Man Who ever lived has this reality placed before Him of becoming the vilest sinner by the act of God's imputation, He cannot help but ask that this cup be taken away from Him. It was the holy, just, righteous, perfect thing to do as He looked forward to that dreaded cross. Beloved, do you have a hatred of sin?

**c. Jesus delighted in God preeminently & perfectly:**

**1) Godly people delight in the God: Ps. 42:1-2:** As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

- **Ps. 63:1-3:** O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh faints for You, as in a dry & weary land where there is no water . . . Because Your mercy is better than life, my lips will praise You.

- **Ps. 73:25-26:** Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh & my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart & my portion forever.

- **Phil. 3:8:** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

**Augustine:** Let the Lord your God be your hope. Hope for nothing else from the Lord your God; but let the Lord your God Himself be your hope. For many persons hope to obtain from God's hands riches, & many perishable & temporary honors; & in short, anything else they hope to obtain at God's hands, except only God Himself. But seek after your God Himself: no, indeed, despising all things else, make your way to Him! Forget other things, remember Him. Leave other things behind, & "press forward" to Him . . . Leave all your loves. He who made heaven & earth is more beautiful than all . . . Let our God be our hope. He who made all things, is better than all! He who made what is beautiful, is more beautiful than all that is [beautiful]. He who made whatever is mighty, is Himself mightier. He who made whatever is great, is Himself greater. He will be to you everything that you love.

**2) But only Jesus delighted in the Father preeminently & perfectly: Luke 6:12:** In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, & all night he continued in prayer to God.

- **Mk. 1:35:** Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out & departed to a solitary place; & there He prayed.

**3) So on that cross, Jesus knew He would lose His greatest delight:** As He prepared to go to Jerusalem to be crucified, He knew His most prized possession – God – would cut Him off; He knew His most blessed fellowship with His Heavenly Father, was going to be cut off. Jesus had to, by necessity, pray that God would spare Him from the cross for this very reason – because of His intense love for & delight in His Father!

Do you have an intense delight in God? Is Jesus Christ precious to you? Do you love Jesus Christ!

**Jesus became the rejected One** because **we don't fear God** the way we ought; **we don't hate sin** as we should, & **we don't passionately delight** in the Father as He deserves to be delighted in! We need a Savior!

Though Jesus prayed the way He did, He also prayed, to His Father as a perfect man would – not My will but Your will be done! This is good news! It is good news for us that Jesus was crushed in our place! What love is this?!

Jesus was made sin & crushed in our place by the One He loved the most. In one sense, He heard His own Father say: "Depart from me. I have counted you as an evil doer & reckoned you to be the most vile & wicked sin. Go & endure an infinite punishment under My just condemnation & wrath. I abandon You! Be gone!"

**4) There is great gain for those who trust in Jesus Christ – this great rejected One!:** The Father loved the Son & accepted the Son on the cross as well!! **Eph. 5:2:** walk in love, as Christ loved us & gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering & sacrifice to God.

God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating Him as the triumphant One over sin, death, & Satan! Jesus triumphed on our behalf. Jesus lived a perfectly obedient life, died on that cross, & rose again so that sinners like you & me could hear the Father mercifully say, "You are forgiven & righteous, & with you I am well pleased!"

**5) Jesus died for the puny disciples who slept & failed to keep watch:** Jesus died for them! Jesus died for you!

**Jesus Begged His Father To Take The Cross Away; Because With Perfect Fear He'd Pray; With Passion Every Sin He'd Slay; And Preeminently To God He'd Say; You're My Greatest Joy Please Stay; Your Will Be Done I Will Obey!**

When devils roar and Christ is sad  
And all His future's dark and bad  
He faced His Father's wrath so mad  
To Him all sins our God would add  
He'd lose the pleasure of His Dad  
Alone, forsaken – no more glad  
But on that cross He conquered bad  
And took away His Father's mad  
Rose up alive in light He's clad  
And now to us His goodness add  
All sins forgiven we are glad  
Someday all joy and no more sad!

With soul in sorrow He could die  
He'd pray and sweat and loudly cry  
“Oh Father let this cup pass by!  
For You can do all things on high!  
Your will be done – I will comply!”  
This prayer is hard – we can't deny  
Was Jesus' love now spent and dry?  
From Him did faith and boldness fly?  
Is our King weak as death drew nigh?  
A million “No's!” we must reply!  
Our King is King of kings on high!  
He's perfect man in every eye  
His prayer shows us a perfect cry  
Perfect fear – from wrath He'd fly  
Perfect hate – toward sin defy  
Perfect joy in God nearby  
The perfect Man must pray this cry!  
But on His God He would rely  
And give His life and finally die  
Then rise to ascend in the sky  
And our salvation full apply!

Fear not mere men who bodies kill  
And leave the souls untouched and still  
But fear the God Who at His will  
Casts souls and bodies with great zeal  
Straight into hell – justice fulfill  
Jesus obeyed with perfect skill  
And feared His God Whose wrath would spill  
All over Him on Calvary's hill  
Millions of hells would be His pill  
The darkest chill and greatest ill

Would be His plight – it was God's will  
When perfect Man this fear did feel  
His only prayer – He must appeal  
His fear is perfectly ideal  
Fear only God Who souls can kill!

Christ hated sin with perfect hate  
He lived the righteous, sinless state  
But knew He soon would bear the weight  
Of all our sinful wicked freight  
As sin our God would then equate  
The perfect Savior Who's the Great  
This cannot be for it's innate  
That more than all, sin, Christ would hate!  
And so He prayed: “Father create!  
Another way – this cross negate!”  
But as He cried and lay prostrate  
On His Father's will He'd wait!

The Father is Jesus' greatest delight  
The joy they have is out of sight  
So when Christ sees His terrible plight  
The Father turns His back from sight  
And says: “My only Son I'll smite!”  
He cannot take this darkest night  
But for His Father's presence fight!  
With every fiber of His might  
“Oh Father take the cross from sight!”  
But so we could be saved tonight  
Our Savior died and did what's right  
And rose again – our sovereign Knight  
To be our joy and delight!

Christ Jesus' Life Was Full Out Pressed  
Like Olive Oil He's Crushed, Depressed  
His Soul In Sorrow, Troubled, Stressed  
God's Cup Of Wrath His Soul Distressed  
“Let This Cup Pass!” Three Times Request  
For He'd Take Sin Upon His Breast  
Who Knew No Sin, Hates Sin Detest  
He Feared His God The Perfect Best  
And Knew He'd Lose His Father's Rest  
Forsaken, Killed, And Sore Oppressed  
Yet With His Father's Will Obsessed  
He Died For All Our Sins Transgressed  
Then Rose Alive So Now We're Blessed  
By Faith Alone We're Just And Dressed  
In His Pure Righteousness Possessed  
We Live For Him Our Love Expressed  
For He's Our All, Our One True Quest!

Jesus endured the horror of horrors so that you might be given the joy of joys, so watch & pray that you might obey!