

Watch & Pray, Your Will Be Done, Staying Close to Jesus.

Mark 14:32 - 42

The scene switches in Holy Week to the Garden Of Gethsemane: Jesus wanted a night of prayer in the Mount of Olives: in fact they just had an hour or two as that was the time it took for Judas to tip off the authorities and for them to get the arrest and trial organised. So Jesus desires time and quietness to pray. He posts the disciples at the gate and Peter, James & John a little nearer: two lines of defence to secure his prayer time.

Luke tells us at this point that Jesus was sweating drops of blood. Why? Because there was a terrible anguish in His spirit. An anguish which was not about death: it was about something far worse. The word 'cup' is used 20 times in scripture: however on no less than 17 of these occasions it is about the 'cup' of Gods anger against sin and the experience of being cut off from Him. You see, Jesus had never been separated from His father (he left heaven but was still with His Father, he could talk to him any time, and he was in direct communication: a bit like the president and the White House). Jesus had never known what it was to be away from God. He enjoyed perfect communion with the Father and to face not having that was anguish indeed. Hell has been described as separation from God: fortunately we cannot truly grasp what that means but Jesus could: we don't yet enjoy perfect communion but Jesus did. This was the 'cup' He did not have to drink from (14:36) and that was why hours later he would cry: 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me (15:34). Everyone else had gone: now you too have gone Father. That's why he shrank from this moment: forsaken by God, dark, thirsty, and lonely. So when we say we want to

share in his sufferings: it's not so much the cross; it's more the profound understanding that our own sin has separated us from Father God. 3 times Jesus agonised & 3 times he returned to the disciples and found them asleep: I think we understand that 'the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.' So we have two gardens thus far in scripture: the garden of Eden where disobedience took root and mankind went out to die for their sins, and now we have the garden of Gethsemane where obedience won, and one man went out to die for everyone else's sins. One day another garden (city) now under construction will be the centre of the universe where the price having been paid, the bride of Christ and the Bridegroom Jesus will spent all eternity together as one.

Watch & Pray

Ears to hear, Eyes to see.

How many of us pray with our eyes closed?

The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

Your Will Be Done

Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, But what you will.

Did Jesus mean that? Yes. Do I mean it?

Staying Close to Jesus

Mark is witnessing all this. He was following Jesus. 14:52 is he! Am I staying close to Him whatever the cost?

Pastor David

Maundy Thursday April 5th 2012