

Jesus' Amazing Obedience for Our Eternal Benefit – Part 2

Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1 ESV

He Was in Agony, We Are Filled With Gratitude

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane!

Wednesday, 3/4 at 11:00 & 7:00

Second Wednesday of Lent – 2020

Lenten Wednesdays: Join Us for our Free Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today and on the next four Wednesdays, we are going to focus on some key aspects of Jesus' final 18 hours before He died, including:

- † Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
- † Jesus on trial
- † Jesus nailed to a cross
- † Jesus mocked by many
- † Jesus cursed by God

With each key aspect, let us be **in awe** and **filled with gratitude** *regarding Jesus amazing obedience for our eternal benefit!*

Just BEFORE today's account of what happened *late on Holy Thursday* and *in the Garden of Gethsemane*, Jesus had been in the upper room with His disciples **eating** the Passover meal, **instituting** the Lord's Supper, and **foretelling** Peter's denial. We now go to today's text in **Matthew 26**, beginning with **verse 36**...

1. **The Setting:** ³⁶ **Then Jesus went with them** [that is, His disciples, but not with Judas] **to a place called Gethsemane** [on the Mount of Olives, which had a large garden of olive trees], **and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”**
 - a. Try to imagine what Jesus was thinking... Crucifixions were common back then; according to an article in Live Science, “In [ancient times], thousands upon thousands of people were crucified, which at the time was considered to be one of the most brutal and shameful ways to die.”¹ Now, think about Jesus... He is the Son of God in human flesh, so *He knew how He would die.*
 - b. Think about Jesus’ words in **John 3**; He said, “...as **Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up**” (v. 14 ESV). The *lifting up* points to crucifixion, since the victim was attached to the crossbar, and then the bar, *with the victim’s body attached*, were lifted up and attached to the upright post. Also, Jesus had most likely seen many people attached to crosses, so *He knew the horror of what was coming for Him* – not only the excruciating pain, but also *the sin of the world and the wrath of His Father!*
2. **Jesus’ Inner Circle:** ³⁷ **And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee** [that is, James and John], **he began to be sorrowful and troubled.** ³⁸ **Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”** // Jesus knew He would be betrayed that evening; He also strongly desired to talk to His Father, to see if there was some other way to save the world – *apart*

¹ <https://www.livescience.com/65283-crucifixion-history.html>

from Him being crucified, so He asked His closest disciples – Peter, James, and John – to keep watch!

3. **Jesus' Agony and Prayers:**

- a. ³⁹ **And going a little farther** [“about a stone’s throw” away (Luke 22:41 ESV)] **he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”** // Imagine men in a circle and a cup being passed around, *each person was expected to drink from it*. But Jesus prayed, “Father, if possible, let this cup pass by me!” And what was the cup? Dr. Kretzmann gave this answer, **“The cup of excruciating torture, of death on the cross, was before His eyes, and His weak human nature shrinks back from its terrors.”**
- b. In Luke’s account of Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane, we find this additional information: **“And there appeared to [Jesus] an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground”** (Luke 22:43-44 ESV). It’s fitting that Luke, *the doctor*, would include that information in his gospel account. What happened to Jesus is certainly rare, but the same has been documented in other cases of **“extreme exhaustion.”**²
- c. ⁴⁰ **And [Jesus] came to the [three] disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”** // Dr. Kretzmann

² <https://biblehub.com/luke/22-44.htm> (Ellicott’s Commentary for English Readers)

wrote: “It is in the hours of bitter and severe trial, when the weakness of the flesh is ready to give up the hard fight, that prayerful watchfulness, together with unwavering trust in God's power, will maintain the strength of the spirit to keep the faith.”

- d. ⁴² Again, for the second time, [Jesus] went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. // To be sure, Jesus asked three times, yet He was also committed to doing the Father’s will – *even if it was the cross!* Jesus gave us a good pattern and attitude for our prayers!

4. **Jesus’ Readiness:** ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples [probably to the three] and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.” // After talking things over with His Father through prayer, Jesus was strengthened and ready for the battle of the universe:

The God-Man vs. Sin, Death, and the Devil!

Therefore, Jesus went forward to meet His betrayer and accept all that was to come!

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, help us to better grasp who You are and what You did for us; *then fill us with gratitude!*