

Gethsemane

(Mk.14:32-42)

Gethsemane – variegated view of Jesus

- Foreknowledge. Jn.13:1
- Friends. Eight . . . Three . . . One
- Feelings. Hb.5:7
- Fear. Hb.5:7
- Faithfulness. Mk.13:35-36; Hb.5:8

Summary: 32

- Gethsemane: 'oil press'?
- Jesus was going to pray.
- Disciples can witness the agony...

Summary: 33

- Eight remain near gate
- Peter, James, John see more than others
- Jesus is . . .
 1. Distressed: alarmed; struck with terror. Hb.5:7-8.
 2. Troubled: in anxiety, upset, distress of great shock. Lk.12:50.

Summary: 34

- Sorrowful...even to death (almost dead with distress?)
- Echoes Psalm 42: 5-6, 12.
- Disciples: self-confident: would not fail.
- Jesus approached the end with strong crying and tears, Hb.5:7.
- Three disciples privileged with “inner circle” status” (Mk.5:37; 9:2).

No wonder they later yielded to temptation.

Summary: 35

- Went a little farther.
- Fell on ground (on face, Mt.26:39)
- Prayed that *hour* might pass.
- Jesus foretold His death three times –
Mk.8:31-33; 9:30-32; 10:32-34.

Summary: 36

- Abba, Father... Take cup away.
- “Cup” – did James / John hear? 10:38f.; 14:23-24.
 - “Cup” parallels “hour” (verse 35).
- “Not what I will...” Mt.6:10.
 - Mark presents Jesus as Son of God and as human, now facing suffering / death.
 - He can have foreknowledge, yet fear.
 - He can shrink from “cup” but submit...

Summary: 37

- Disciples failed to serve God with their “strength” (12:30).
- He addresses Peter as *Simon*. Jn.21:15-17.
- James and John also boasted: they could drink the cup that Jesus drinks, 10:38-39.
 - Talk is cheap.
 - This cautions against arrogance and overconfidence.

Summary: 38

- Watch and pray: plural verbs.
- Danger: spirit willing, flesh weak (warning and incentive)
 - Their spirit may be eager to endure temptation, but it must work through weak instrument of flesh. Lk.22:45.
 - Despite His own trials, He is concerned for them.
 - Lk.22:44, agony...
 - Zec.13:7, striking of Shepherd...

Summary: 39

- He prayed, using same words.
- “Again” contrasts His steadfastness with sincere but sleepy disciples.

Summary: 40

- Asleep again – eyes weighed down.
- He prays three times; they sleep three times.
- Jesus gave them an example in trial; let us learn if they didn't. Hb.5:8.

Summary: 41-42

- It is enough: irony.
- My betrayer is at hand (Jn.18:2).
 - Instead of fleeing, He goes forward to meet enemies.
 - 36, 41 – in truest sense, His betrayal is something done by God.

What should we learn from Gethsemane?

I. Place of Heaviness, 32-33

- For Jesus, another encounter with satan
 - Lk.4:13
 - Agony of Gethsemane is worse
- He endured agony, innocent of all charges [Is.53; Mt.27; Lk.23]
 - Ro.3:...25-26
 - Purpose: show God's righteousness
 - All agree on our guilt (Ro.3)
 - Jesus would soon leave His disciples.

I. Place of Heaviness, 32-33

II. Place of Prayer, 32

Lk.22:44

- When disciples are at death's door, they will learn the meaning of fervent prayer.
 - Ac.12:5
 - 1 Pt.5:7

I. Place of Heaviness, 32-33

II. Place of Prayer, 32

III. Place of Loneliness,
34-37

Jn.6:66 / Ps.142:4

- All disciples promise fidelity, Mk.14:31
 - Difficulty, 32 – *sit* here while He prays
 - Timing, 37 – *sleeping*
 - Degree, 37 – *one hour*
 - Neglect, 38 – *watch and pray*
 - Weakness, 40 – *asleep again*
 - Number, 41 – *still sleeping*
 - Circumstance, 42 – *His betrayal*
 - Opportunity lost, 41-42 – *they let Him down*

I. Place of Heaviness, 32-33

II. Place of Prayer, 32

III. Place of Loneliness, 34-37

IV. Place of Help, 39-44

Lk.22:43-46

- Strengthened by angel
- Sleepy disciples – cf. Hb.2:18; 4:16; 5:7

I. Place of Heaviness, 32-33

II. Place of Prayer, 32

III. Place of Loneliness, 34-37

IV. Place of Help, 39-44

V. Place of Betrayal, 42

Even sleepers now see what is happening.

- Ro.13:11-12.
- Jg.7
- Hb.6:4-6

Conclusion

1. Jesus was not a martyr. Mt.26:53
 - a. His death was the Father's will.
 - b. Jn.1:29
2. Many opportunities, once lost, can never be regained, 41.
 - a. Gal.6:10
 - b. Ep.5:17
3. All this for us. How should we then live?