

Mark 14:27-40 "The key is prayer"

Jesus the bread of life... born in Bethlehem (house of bread) **Now proclaims the bread represents His BODY broken for all of us.**

As Hughes points out. "**He demonstrated his divine life to all the world by living a sinless life in that BODY.** He bore our sins on the Cross while in that human **BODY.** He triumphed from the grave by bringing that **BODY** back to life, and he now lives in that glorified **BODY** at the right hand of the Father where he prays for us. As members of his **BODY** we share that life."

WE are the "body of Christ" participating in the "body of Christ". Communion promotes a deep understanding of our family... as ONE, unified as the "body of Christ"

Our partaking of the bread symbolized our real participation in his life!

The old covenant of the law was ratified by the shedding of blood and now Jesus will ratify the new covenant of grace with His blood.

As we take the cup we will benefit most by saying in our hearts, **"YES, I REALLY AM FORGIVEN"** and resting in that glorious truth!

This is love's extravagance. When you and I partake of the table of the Lord together, Jesus is saying, "Look, it is I who break the flask of my own body, to pour out upon you all the precious ointment, so that you may understand that it is no longer law which governs your life; **IT IS LOVE."** **LOVE THAT SAYS, "I WILL DIE**

SO YOU CAN LIVE" PRAY

Mark 14 verse 27 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.' **Take heed lest you fall... We all are a few choices away from being the greatest sinners on earth... Jesus says this not to condemn His disciples, but to show them that He really is in command of the situation, and to demonstrate that the Scriptures regarding the suffering of the Messiah must be fulfilled.**

At the end of this very night we will see the fulfillment of this prophetic passage in **Zechariah**. Gethsemane's struggle was the striking of the Shepherd, and the result would be the scattering of the sheep. *The sheep will scatter this very evening in the Garden of Gethsemane.* Look to verse **50** Then they all forsook Him and fled.

28 "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." *This shows that Jesus is already looking beyond the cross. He has His eyes fixed on the joy set before Him (Hebrews 12:2).* **John 10:11** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep," *He is reassuring his disciples that after the dark event of Calvary, there will come the glory of the resurrection.*

It is interesting to note that never once did Jesus speak of his death on the cross to His disciples without setting it against the dawning light of the resurrection. *And yet they never seemed to grasp it.*

29 Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I *will not be.*" *Peter only looked to how he felt at the moment, and at the moment he felt pretty brave. Peter was a little "Cocky" strutting his stuff like a rooster.*

Maclaren noted about all of us... "It is sometimes easier to bear a great load for Christ than a small one. Some of us could be martyrs at the stake more easily than confessors among sneering neighbors."

30 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, *even* this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." **31** But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all said likewise. **In 1 Corinthians 10:12 The Apostle Paul warned us against this kind of thinking. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall** When we think we are beyond the reach of some sins, we are ready for a fall.

Jesus knew Peter far better than Peter did, and I am so encouraged by the verse in **1 John 3:20** *For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.* (2 Timothy 2:13) Jesus love and restoration is greater than your failure.

32 Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." **33** And He took Peter, James, and

John with Him, He calls for His closest disciples. Jesus knows they all are exhausted but these **three** He needs tonight. *Why because as verse 33 goes on to say...* He began to be troubled and **deeply distressed**.

HUGHES... The words "**deeply distressed**" bear the element of astonishment. Or as one commentator put it, "terrific surprise." The King James Version suggests the same rendering, "sore amazed." Jesus, of course, knew the Cross was coming and what it entailed. But as he looked into the cup he must drink that night, he was astonished and overcome with horror. No human being, however great his or her anguish, has ever experienced anything like this!

34 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, *even to death*. Stay here and **watch**." **earnestly in prayer, being** Vigilant gray-gor-yoo'-
 o **translated here** "**watch**" **35** He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. **Such agony that He would fall to the ground, then stand up and fall again...** No one has known sorrow like this... and Luke, tells us in his gospel chapter 22 verse 44 "And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

Peter, James and John saw Jesus fall prostrate to the ground.

From the other Gospels we piece together that he **went first to his knees** (**Luke 22:41** *And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed,*)

and then on his face (Matthew 26:39 *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed.* Now Mark adds that the stress was so great that sweat and blood exploded under His skin... **I repeat...** **No one has known sorrow like this...**

Hebrews 5:7 - who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear.

Again verse 35 He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed

that if it were possible, the **hour** might pass from Him. **36** And He said, "Abba, Father, (Daddy) all things *are* possible for You. Take this **cup** away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You *will*."

Not what I will, but what You will: Some criticize such a prayer in the mouth of a Christian, saying it is a prayer that lacks faith. But to pray not what I will, but what You will is a prayer of great faith and trust in God. If such a prayer insults God, then Jesus insulted His Father at this crucial moment in the Garden of Gethsemane



This prayer of Jesus eliminates any other way of salvation. **If there is another way**, His death was not *necessary* and His prayer was not answered.

The "hour" and "the cup" metaphors for his death

His prayer was not to do something other than the Father's will, but he did pray that if there was a possibility of fulfilling his Messianic mission without the Cross, he would opt for that. As a man Christ cried for escape, As our Redeemer He wanted His Father's will. **Jesus was in distress... The disciples sense this, and he does not try to hide it from them.**

I see tremendous help here for those of us who struggle with the will of God. My marriage is so tough... it's hard to stay... I don't want to stay... you know God's will... forgiveness... redemption... restoration.

God I really don't want to serve in the children's ministry... I know you are calling me... your will be done.

And there will come a time when, no matter what the Word of God says, you do not want to obey.

The Bible for Jesus was the Old Testament. He knew it well! He knew His purpose for coming, for living... it was to die. His time had come.

Take this **cup** away from Me; the cup of **DIVINE JUDGMENT**, the cup filled with **THE WRATH**, the **INDIGNATION OF GOD** against sin.

if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*."

Was it the physical pain He was to endure that brought this agony... **Death by crucifixion?** I think not... **NO, I Know not...** It was **not** the **pain** but the

shame... not even the abandonment of the disciples caused this... **but the weight and penalty of our sin...** It was not so much the horror of physical torture, but the spiritual horror of the cross - *of being made sin* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

His Father turning away as He took upon Himself the sins of all mankind. This cup as He drank the wrath of God against sin.

Ironside astutely states "His holy soul shrank from the awfulness of being made sin upon the tree. It was not death, but the divine anger against sin, the imputation to Him of all our iniquities that filled His soul with horror."

So now in **Gethsemane**. The "olive press" Jesus is to be crushed and will be poured out as the **only offering acceptable** to cover the sins of **404 and 1**. After His resurrection the oil of gladness will replace the agony of the next 12 hours.

Jeremiah 25:15 - *For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: "Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it."*

Jesus became, as it were, an enemy of God, who was judged and forced to drink the cup of the Father's fury, so we would not have to drink from that cup - *this* was the source of Jesus' agony.



In the greatest display of obedience that will ever be known, Jesus took the full chalice of man's sin and God's wrath, looked, shuddering, deep into its depth, and in a steel act of His will drank it all!

*Right now Jesus is **torn up, wore out** and needs the companionship, encouragement and certainly the **prayers** of his disciples...*

Verse 37 Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? **"If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"** **Dude you can't even stay awake for me.**

The devil only had to make him sleepy. I am sure this was a satanic attack. **Peter must have been a bit startled to hear Jesus call him Simon. This was the old unreliable Simon, not the new man Peter (the rock). Peter was ready to resist any attack, except the attack of the heavy eye lids.**

Got a little "cocky" didn't you Peter? Mark didn't include this but I think Jesus probably said, Peter *think about the fate of most roosters who get cocky. They lose their heads.*

Paul in Romans 7... Why? What I want to do I do not do and what I do not want to do I do. Romans 7:24 **○ wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

Verse 37 Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour?"

38 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. *He knows how hard it is to do what is right...* "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation". the clear implication that if Peter had observed the demand to **WATCH AND PRAY** in that hour, **he would not have denied his Lord in the next hour.** Prayer is a way of drawing on God's strength to meet the pressures which are pressing upon you, with temptation inherent in every one. *Through prayer... God is forming character...* Character is forged in the small moments of life and revealed in the big ones.

The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak." "The spirit is willing, Peter, I know your heart. I know you love me. Your spirit is perfectly willing. But Peter, you relied upon your flesh. The flesh is weak."

The spiritual battle is often won or lost before the crisis comes.

39 Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. **40** And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

This is the darkest hour for Jesus... He sure could use the prayers of His disciples... Jesus is still asking for the prayers of His disciples... this time not for His desperate need but ours...

Peter, who fell asleep three times, went on to deny his Lord by that same number – **hardly a poetic coincidence!** But all was not lost. Their scandal was to become their salvation because in the years to come all learned to **steel their lives in prayer.** Peter and

James died martyrs' deaths, and John was a man of steel who endured to the end. **The lessons are here if we wish to see them.**

STRENGTH IS WHAT PRAYER PROVIDES, and that is what Gethsemane teaches. Jesus prayed when the flesh reared it's ugly head. And though he sweat drops of blood, he stood firm and did the will of the Father *while prayerless Peter slept.*

THE APPLICATION IS SIMPLY THIS: all of us should give ourselves to regular, daily prayer. If you are not living a life of dependent prayer, you will fall. You cannot and will not have the steel necessary to follow Christ.

The struggle of the cross was won at the Garden of Gethsemane.

We can hear a thousand sermons preached about the secret to the Christian life, but it gets right down to our own discipline. If we do not have that, we are sinning. All of us need to live lives of dependent prayer, that there might be steel in our soul –

THE KEY IS PRAYER.