

Sermon 119: Christ's Agony in the Garden: Luke 22:39-46

Text: Luke 22:39-46 "And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation..."

Summary: As Christ prayed in the Garden, He felt the full weight of His future suffering and expressed to the Father both His willingness to face it and His desire to be rescued from it.

Proposition: We need to understand the weight of the cross and the cost of our redemption.

Introduction: Looking back at the Passover.

- **We have been redeemed to God: 1 Peter 1:18** "Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot..."
- **That redemption came through His body which bore our sins:**
 - **1 Peter 2:24** "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree..."
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him..."
- **It came through His blood shed for the remission of our sins:**
 - **Romans 3:25** "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God..."
 - **Hebrews 9:22-28** "Almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission...now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself...So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many..."

Part 1: Christ's prayer: 22:42 "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done..."

- **Four elements:**
 - **Condition:**
 - **Luke 22:42** "If you be willing..."
 - **Matthew 26:39** "If it be possible..."
 - **Cup:** "Remove this cup..."
 - **He understood He could not escape this cup: John 18:11** "The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"
 - **The cup is a symbol of God's judgment poured out against sin:**
 - **God's judgment on the nations: Jeremiah 25:14-15** "Many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands...Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it..."
 - **Those who reject Christ: Revelation 14:10** "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb..."
 - **The wicked city Babylon:**
 - **Revelation 16:19** "Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath..."
 - **Revelation 18:5-6** "For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double..."
 - **He experienced this judgment in His own body on the cross for us:**
 - **1 Peter 2:24** "His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree..."
 - **Isaiah 53:5** "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him..."
 - **Isaiah 53:10** "It pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief..."
 - **Conviction:** "Nevertheless not my will, but thine..."
 - **Conclusion:** He drank the cup.

- **He experienced estrangement: Matthew 27:45-46**
 "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
- **He committed Himself into the Father's hands: Luke 23:44-46** "The sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.
- **He finished the work: John 19:28-30** "Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled...said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost..."
- **His prayer was answered when He rose from the dead: Psalm 22:22-24** "I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee...For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard..."
- **Five conclusions:**
 - God willed to redeem us to Himself despite the personal cost His Son would experience.
 - It was impossible to be redeemed to God without the cross.
 - Christ faced the just wrath of His Father against our sin as He hung on the cross.
 - This wrath was temporary but sufficient to satisfy God's justice.
 - Christ submitted willingly to God's purpose in the cross.

Part 2: Christ's obedience:

- **He humbled Himself: Philippians 2:8** "Being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross..."
- **He tasted death for every man: Hebrews 2:9-10** "We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings..."
- **He learned obedience by the things He suffered: Hebrews 5:5-9**
 "Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee...Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications

with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him..."

- **For the joy set before Him endured the cross: Hebrews 12:2**
"Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God..."

Part 3: Christ's triumph: Isaiah 53:10-12 "It pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin...and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors..."

- **His death provided satisfaction:**
 - **53:10** "It pleased the LORD to bruise him..."
 - **53:11** "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied..."
- **His death was the final sacrifice: 53:10** "Thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin..."
- **His death was history's greatest triumph:**
 - **Justification: 53:11** "My righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities..."
 - **Inheritance: 53:12** "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death..."
 - **Reconciliation: 53:12** "He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors..."

Application:

- **To the unbeliever:**
 - Realize there is no other way of salvation.
 - Realize the implications of thinking you can earn your way to Him.
 - Do not treat the cross as a cheap, wasted sacrifice.
- **To the believer:**
 - Do not entertain doubt about God's love for you.
 - Never diminish the significance of the cross.
 - Never forget the weight of Christ's sacrifice for you.

- Rest in what you have in Christ.
- Rejoice in what it tells you about His love for you.
- Regularly remind yourself of these truths and live like you believe they are true.