



Easter Prelude Part 2 - *The Repulsive Cup*

Message to Conversation Guide

Key Text

Matt 26:36-46

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

“Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. 41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

42 He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!” NIV

Discussion Questions

1. Are there certain things that you dread and are repulsive to you? Examples: doing your taxes, going to the dentist etc.
2. Look at and discuss the verses below from various gospels about Jesus agonizing in the garden.

Matt 26:36-38

37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is

overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” NIV

3. Read and discuss the quote from John Stott listed below.

The ordeal he refers to is the bitter “cup” which he ardently prays may, if possible, be taken from him so that he does not have to drink it. What is this cup? Is it physical suffering from which he shrinks, the torture of the scourge and the cross, together perhaps with the mental anguish of betrayal, denial and desertion by his friends, and the mockery and abuse of his enemies? Nothing could ever make me believe that the cup Jesus dreaded was any of these things (grievous as they were) or all of them together. His physical and moral courage throughout his ministry had been indomitable. To me it is ludicrous to suppose that he is now afraid of pain, insult and death. Socrates in the prison cell in Athens, according to Plato’s account, took the cup of hemlock “without trembling or changing color or expression.” He then “raised the cup to his lips, and very cheerfully and quietly drained it.” When his friends burst into tears, he rebuked them for their “absurd” behavior and urged them to “keep quiet and be brave.” He died without fear, sorrow or protest. So was Socrates braver than Jesus? Or were their cups filled with different poisons? The Cross by John Stott

4. The Cup that Jesus was struggling to drink is defined by these verses from the Old Testament. What is the common theme found in these verses?

Job 21:20

20 Let their own eyes see their destruction;
let them drink **the cup of the wrath of the Almighty.** NIV

See **Ezekiel 23:32-34, Isa 51:17-22, Hab 2:16, Rev 16:1-21, 14:10-11**

Ps 75:8

8 In the hand of **the Lord is a cup**
full of foaming wine mixed with spices;
he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth
drink it down to its very dregs. NIV

Jer 25:15-16

15 This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: **“Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath** and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. 16 When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them.”

5. Discuss the consequences of Jesus becoming sin for us. When Jesus became sin he was separated from his Father with whom he had eternal fellowship. Why was this the most repulsive thing Jesus would experience on the cross from his perspective?

2 Cor 5:21

21 **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,** so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. NIV