

Matthew 26:30-46 “What Jesus Suffered For You”

7.8.18

As we begin this morning I want you to take a look at this picture:



What's Jesus doing? He's smiling. Did you know there is no recorded incidence of Jesus ever smiling or laughing in Scripture? Now, I'm convinced He did...on many occasions, most likely, but none of the Gospel writers ever recorded Jesus smiling or laughing.

However, the Bible does describe Jesus and His emotions in many ways? He is described as a “man of sorrows...acquainted with grief.” He is described as being tired, sad, sighing, weary unto death, groaning within. Matthew 17 describes Jesus as frustrated, when He said, “How long, how long am I to bear you, faithless and twisted generation. John, chapter 11 describes Jesus as weeping outside of Lazarus' tomb. Luke 19 describes how He wept over Jerusalem because they refused to believe in Him. He is described by all the Gospel writers as being thirsty on the cross...



Yes, Jesus is described in many ways in Scripture...human ways... Suffering ways...

And today we're going to see the climax of his grief and His suffering as sweats drops of blood in a Garden called Gethsemane. Our Lord knew sorrow, upon sorrow, upon sorrow. And what we'll see is an intensification of this sorrow that will lead to suffering like no other human being has ever endured or ever will endure. For you see, what Jesus suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane is unlike anything that we could ever comprehend in our humanity. See the depiction of the agony...



John MacArthur says it this way:

“In a very real sense, to enter into the suffering of Jesus in this text of Matthew 26 is to tread on holy ground. To try to understand something that is ultimately not understandable is to try to explain something that is inexplicable. There is mystery here that is too profound for any other human being to ever understand. Thus, we stand in awe of the God-Man, Jesus Christ, fully aware that He is God, and yet seeing Him suffer in pain as a human, almost as if He were not God at all. Yes, it is too much for us to understand.” John MacArthur, Pastor, author, Bible Commentator

The title of this morning’s message is: **“What Jesus Suffered For You.”**

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, 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.” ³⁹ And going a little farther 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.” ⁴⁰ And he came to the 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.” ⁴² Again, for the second time, he 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. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples 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.”

Now, as we begin, I want to point back to a statement I made in the introduction about Jesus... He is a man of sorrows...acquainted with grief. I want to show you where those two phrases come from in Scripture and will help us to understand that it was prophesied that Jesus would have to suffer to deliver us from our sin.

Hold your place in Matthew 26 and turn with me to Isaiah 53.

Isaiah 53 is often described by Bible scholars as the chapter called the “Suffering Servant.” It was this chapter that Philip used to lead the Ethiopian man to Christ on the road to Gaza. It is the chapter that is most often used to lead a Jew to Christ, in that this chapter is found in the Old

Testament written by the prophet Isaiah some 750 years before Jesus was born. Follow along with me and see if this chapter doesn't describe Jesus and His suffering perfectly...

Isaiah 53:1-12

¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

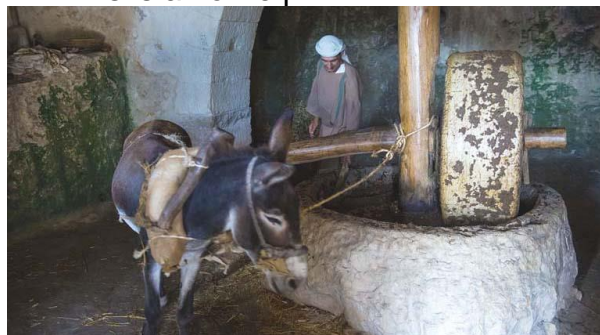
We know this scene in the Garden of Gethsemane well. If you have been to the Passion Play, you've seen it acted out for years. Sleepy disciples and agonizing Savior. What might we learn from Gethsemane and the suffering of our Lord?

First of all, note in verse 30 the word "Gethsemane."

Matthew 26:30

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."

The word means, "Olive press." This is an olive press...



Olives were placed in the trough and the donkey or beast of burden will pull the wooden lever and a massive stone would crush the olives and the oil would come out into a basin or collection pan. I

think it is more than appropriate to think of Jesus being in Gethsemane in a press...being crushed under the weight of our sin.

Now the Garden of Gethsemane was likely a garden that was fenced in, so as to make it private and secluded. It appears Jesus was given access to this garden, where He would often go and pray (John 18:2). On this night, Thursday night, He would be betrayed by Judas and arrested. I've been to the Garden... And Lord willing, I'll be there again in November. Here are some pictures I took when I was there in 2007. It's a beautiful place:



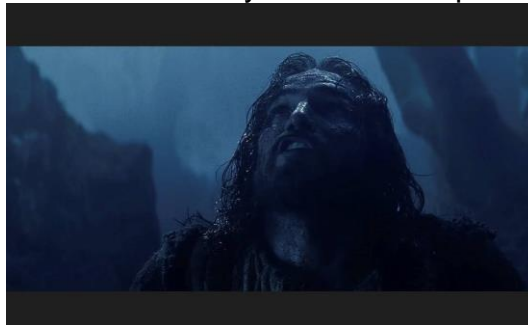
Jesus goes into the Garden, leaving 8 disciples to watch the entrance and going deeper...with whom? Take a look...

Matthew 26:37

³⁷ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Peter, James and John...the inner 3...the three that had been with Him for the raising of Jairus' daughter and on the Mount of Transfiguration. They were the leaders. Jesus, according to Luke's Gospel, would go a stone's throw away...about 30-40 yards and pray alone to His Father.

Now, Matthew, who was one of the disciples seated at the gate, tells us that Jesus was "sorrowful and troubled." How might that have looked? Maybe like this depiction...



Sorrowful and troubled...the Greek word for "sorrowful" is LUPEO. It means to be grieved and to be offended. Offended by what. Your sin. My sin. Jesus was repulsed at sin. Because He knew no sin! He was perfect. He was God and it was repugnant the thought of taking all of the filth of sin upon Him. Do you know how the Bible describes this...

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus became sin who knew no sin and this **depressed** Jesus. Yes, I said, "depressed" Jesus. Do you want to know why I use that word? Because the word "troubled" in vs 37 means: "distressed, anguished or DEPRESSED." Have you ever been depressed? Jesus knows how you feel.

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Listen carefully, Jesus was fully human and fully God in His person on this earth and yes, in His humanity, He felt everything we feel. He was repulsed by the fact that would embody our lies, our gossip, our sexual immorality, our hatred, our adultery, our murder, our theft, and yet, He would take all that garbage of our lives on His shoulders-it was devastating to His humanity, depressing.

You do understand that Jesus didn't start out human. In heaven, seated at the right hand of God, He was perfect and sinless and spotless...and yet, when He was born as a baby...just like us...He put on flesh and dwelled among us in His humanity. And so He would (in His humanity), weep, thirst, get tired, need sleep, eat, go to the bathroom, and grieve to the point of depression, in His humanity. Oh...He knows how we feel and is able to sympathize with our weaknesses.

How sorrowful was Jesus? Sorrowful enough to kill Him...right in there in the Garden. Jesus said to Peter, James and John...

Matthew 26:38

³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."

Matthew's Gospel doesn't tell us that Jesus sweat blood... but, Dr. Luke did in His Gospel.\

Luke 22:44

⁴⁴And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

A doctor ought to know about this condition that's very rare called: hemaTOE-hi-dro-sis. It occurs in individuals suffering from extreme levels of stress. It's a thrombosis...a clotting of the blood that comes from extreme anxiety which causes the blood vessels, the subcutaneous capillaries under the skin to dilate to the point of rupture...where the blood then goes into the sweat glands and comes out of the skin as sweat...literally sweating blood.

Listen, it was cool night. It was spring. It wasn't 95 degrees. No...Jesus wasn't sweating blood because He was hot...He was sweating blood because He was suffering and enduring on a level of anxiety that no other human being could ever know. The blood of Jesus must have dotted His robe...as it dripped from his face, from his...even from his hands and feet...

What would Jesus do...He went back and forth to His closest friends and how do He find them?



Sleeping. They kept falling asleep, didn't they? Amazing isn't it! "Watch and pray"...Jesus had asked. But, they couldn't do it. But, can you blame them? What a crazy week it had been...from the Triumphal Entry on Sunday, to the cleansing of the Temple on Monday, the teaching in the Temple on Tuesday and then the preparation for the Passover on Wed. What a week! After all, they had just eaten a massive supper, the Passover meal...and by now, it's likely around 10 or 11 pm and they're beat...so, they sleep...

Matthew 26:40

⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour?"

I feel Peter's pain. Most of us can't pray longer than 3 minutes, much less an hour. This past week...my family and I sat around the supper table one night and we shared prayer requests of people we needed to pray for and then we prayed. It took about 8 or 9 minutes...and it wasn't easy. Your mind begins to wander. You want to go get your phone or see what time it is... Prayer is a discipline. And because it takes discipline...most Christians pray very little. Jesus asked Peter, "Could you not watch with me an hour?"

How long do you pray? How long can you sit in the presence of God? **Oh indeed, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.** Listen, do you want to know why I believe so many Christians are so powerless and impotent in their lives...it's because they don't pray. I'm speaking of me!! How is it that we'll sit through overtime of game on hard bleachers and never complain, but we can't sit in a comfy chair and pray longer than a few minutes? **The old song, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"** says, "Oh what peace often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

Would you this week, get alone with the Lord...go to your place of solace...and would you dad and mom...would take your family with you and pray...I mean really pray and in teaching your children how to pray, then wait and watch expectantly for the hand of Almighty God to move because of your "effectual fervent praying." Remember, if Satan can't make us bad...he'll make us busy.

Look at verse 39...what was Jesus praying about?

Matthew 26:39

³⁹ And going a little farther 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."

The "cup" Oh...it's been debated for centuries as to what the "cup" is. Most say it's the cross. But, I disagree with the majority in this case, because I believe it's bad theology. How can we say that Jesus was praying NOT to die on the cross? After all, that's why He came. He knew He would have to die as the sacrificial lamb of God to pay for our sins.

Listen carefully, if you study the "cup" in Scripture, it is the "cup of God's wrath." What is the ultimate wrath of God? I'll tell you... IT'S SEPARATION FROM HIM. I can't imagine the HORROR JESUS FELT!

Listen, to me...the "hell" of Hell for an unbeliever for all eternity...is not the fire, not the weeping and gnashing of teeth...no...the hell of Hell is know that you will be separated from God forever with no hope and no way of ever getting to Him. Jesus cried out on the cross, "My God, my God why have you...WHAT..."

FORSAKEN ME! (What's the song we sing? "Not for a moment will you forsake me...")

Listen, on the cross Jesus was separated from His Father and He endured the cross alone! Why? Because Jesus had become sin and God can't look upon sin... *Listen, Jesus disarmed death by bringing the shaft of separation from God into His own heart so that death, hell and the grave could be defeated and offer no more arrows of separation to those would call on Jesus as Lord of their lives.*

You see, it was in the Garden Gethsemane that Jesus won the victory! He accepted the fact that His Father's will could only be accomplished if He were willing to drink the cup of separation down to the dregs! Mark's Gospel records this...

Mark 14:36

³⁶ And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

He called Him: "Daddy, Papa." Can you feel the anguish: I'll do it Papa, Daddy. I'll do it, I'll take the separation for them! Listen, God, the Father will never forsake us, and yet He forsook His own Son. No, Jesus was not wrestling with dying on the cross, He was wrestling with the fact, He'd have to die on the cross all alone. He would have to bear the awful, repugnant burden of your sin and my sin in His holy soul and He was repulsed by it. Yet, Jesus was on a mission:

Matthew 26:46

⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

That word: "rise" is a military command! Rise: like a General speaking to His troops that's preparing to advance against the Enemy: Let's go, Jesus was saying, I've got a mission to finish!

Listen, as we begin to close: What is your Gethsemane? What is that you see coming and you dread? For Jesus it was separation from His Father. What about you? We all have our Gethsemanes...places of pain and suffering. But, Jesus knows...He knows because He's been there... *The words on the screen have been adapted from English poet **William Blake**:*

**Jesus gives His comfort to all;
He becomes an infant small,
He becomes a man of woe;
to feel your sorrow, too.**

**Think not that you can sigh a sigh,
and your Maker is not nearby.
Think not that you can weep a tear,
and you Maker be not near.**

**O, He gives to us His joy,
that our grief He may destroy;
and till our grief is fled and gone
He doth sit with us and moan. (William Blake circa 1790)**

Listen, Jesus Christ takes our Gethsemanes and makes them into a greater whole. There are no accidents with Him and His children. He has a plan. No, He doesn't always keep us from our Gethsemanes, but because He has been there too, we can face them without fear. Jesus' Gethsemane would lead to a cross, yes...but after the cross came the joy of the resurrection! Never forget that! Sometimes we have to go through suffering to get to the joy...but in the suffering we receive His all-sufficient grace and peace that passes all human understanding.

Jesus, "a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief"...NO...the Bible doesn't record on incidence of Jesus smiling or laughing...but, I can promise you this...when we see Him one day...



He'll be smiling!!! LAUGHING!!! "YOU'RE HERE KEVIN, YOU DID IT...THROUGH ME."

Church, I don't know about you, but seeing that smile will make all the Gethsemanes of our lives worth it! Thank you Jesus!
