

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Agony in the Garden

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
June 2, 2019



Mark 14:32-34 They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." ³³ He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. ³⁴ He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

- In Gethsemane Jesus is overcome with agonizing terror and grief. Why?

Isaiah 53:10-11 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands. ¹¹ When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.

Mark 14:35-36 He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. ³⁶ "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

- "The cup" is often used as a Biblical metaphor for the wrath of God towards human evil.

Psalms 75:8

Isaiah 51:17

"In the garden...Jesus turns to the Father and all he can see before him is wrath, the abyss, the chasm, the nothingness of the cup. God is the source of all love, all life, all light, all coherence. Therefore exclusion from God is exclusion from the source of all light, all love, all coherence. Jesus began to experience the spiritual, cosmic, infinite disintegration that would happen when he became separated from his Father on the cross. Jesus began to experience merely a foretaste of that, and he staggered." Tim Keller

- Jesus is able to submit His desires to God, because He knows the Father intimately.

Mark 14:37-42 Then he returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? ³⁸ Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak." ³⁹ Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before. ⁴⁰ When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. And they didn't know what to say. ⁴¹ When he returned to them the third time, he said, "Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!"

- Like the disciples we are all prone to spiritual lethargy.

- We need a "greater Desire" to help us surrender our "lesser desires" to God.

Hebrews 5:7-9 While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. ⁸ Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. ⁹ In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him.

Big Idea: Intimacy with Jesus leads to a willing submission to God.

How can we apply this truth?

- Seek intimacy with God through prayer.
- Submit all your desires to God.

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Agony in the Garden

#17 of 21 – June 2, 2019

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you? What was your most significant takeaway?

3) Read Mark 14:32-34. Describe in your own words what Jesus is experiencing in Gethsemane? In what ways can you relate to his agony? How has God met you in your moments of suffering?

4) What does Psalm 75:8 and Isaiah 51:17 tell you about “the cup” Jesus is asking to be removed? How does Isaiah 53:10-11 help make sense of what Jesus is experiencing?

5) Read Mark 14:35-36. Why do you think Jesus was able to pray, in the midst of his suffering, “not my will, but yours be done?” Do you see God as “Abba Father” or a distant Supreme Being? What would it look like in your life for you to pray this prayer like Jesus?

6) Read Mark 14:37-42. What does this tell us about the disciples? How can we relate to their experience? In what ways have you been “spiritually lethargic” and what is God asking you to do about this? How does Hebrews 5:7-9 help with this?

7) How does having a “greater Desire” for intimacy with Jesus Christ help us submit our “lessor desires” to God? What “lesser desires” do you need to commit to the care and control of King Jesus?

8) What action steps will you take to grow in intimacy with God?

9) What action steps will you take to submit your desires to God?



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