

THE CUP

A Sermon Handout

Matthew 26:36–46

Big Idea

Jesus drank the cup of wrath, judgment, sorrow, and sin that belonged to us.

Key Truth

He took our cup so He could hand us His: mercy, grace, righteousness, and life.

SERMON SUMMARY

In Gethsemane, Jesus entered a hidden battle that the crowd could not see. The "cup" He spoke of was not merely physical suffering—it was the full weight of sin, judgment, wrath, sorrow, and separation that humanity deserved. In that dark garden, the second Adam chose what the first Adam refused: "Not my will, but Yours." Jesus willingly accepted our cup so that through His cross and resurrection He could offer us His cup of mercy, covenant, peace, and life.

WHAT THE CUP REPRESENTS

- The cup is a biblical picture of God's judgment against sin.
- It contains the accumulated guilt, rebellion, shame, and curse of humanity.
- It is the cup we earned—but Jesus chose to drink it in our place.

MAIN MOVEMENT OF THE MESSAGE

- The struggle was hidden. Gethsemane was sacred ground—away from applause, away from spectators, away from comfort.
- The cup was real. Jesus saw the true horror of sin and the cost of redemption.
- The prayer was decisive. "Not my will, but Yours" was the surrender that moved Him toward the cross.
- The exchange was glorious. He took our sin, and we receive His righteousness.
- The invitation is present. Because He took our cup, no one has to keep carrying guilt, shame, or distance from God.

KEY SCRIPTURES MENTIONED

- Matthew 26:36–46 – Jesus in Gethsemane
- Isaiah 51:17 – the cup of wrath
- Jeremiah 25:15 – the wine cup of fury
- Psalm 75:8 – the wicked drink it down

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – the great exchange
- Luke 22:20 – the cup of the new covenant

TAKEAWAYS FOR THE CHURCH

- Jesus did not run from the will of the Father.
- The cross was not an accident; it was chosen love.
- Your guilt does not have to rule you.
- Your shame does not have to define you.
- Communion is a declaration: Someone took my place.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What am I still carrying that Jesus already paid for?
- Do I really believe He took my cup, or am I still trying to earn what only grace can give?
- Where is God calling me to say, "Not my will, but Yours"?
- How should the cross change the way I worship, repent, and receive communion?

PRAYER RESPONSE

Pray: Jesus, thank You for taking the cup that belonged to me. Forgive me, cleanse me, and teach me to live in full surrender. I receive Your mercy, Your righteousness, and Your life. Amen.

“He took your cup. Now come receive His.”