

Jesus' Faithfulness in the Garden

Introduction

Me & Cindy-NWA

Fellowship Bible Church NWA

Fellowship Bible had their inspiration to start back in the 1980's because of the Fellowship Bible Church model here in Dallas. We have much the same DNA as is here.

Possible lead-ins: Cindy has gift of hospitality and the spiritual gift of fun, as well as cooking.

Her meals are amazing. That's all good, because I am a gifted eater. As long as there no curry involved, I will pretty much eat anything.

Gospel writers described what Jesus did when he came

The Son of man came, not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many

The Son of man came to seek and to save the lost

The Son of man came eating and drinking.

Lord's Supper that we just celebrated was the establishment of a covenant meal intended to spark our memory every time we partake.

Last week Garret did a wonderful job of walking us through the last supper Jesus had with his disciples. It was the Passover meal.

And now Mark takes us through what followed that night.

It was the night of nights. Only a few knew it to be so. And those who did know that it was an important night, did not completely understand just how important it was. How many times do we experience something very important, but do not recognize it at the time?

Passover Night-It had already been a night of surprises. **Passover was the Night to Watch. Watch what the Lord does, watch what happens. Jesus knew that this would be the last Night of His earthly life as He knew it. And he is going to invite a few friends to watch with him and because we have this written record, he invites us to watch too.**

He is about to enter the most difficult day of his life and he has prayed for His followers and for others. And now He turns to praying to the Father for Himself and what He is about to face.

So, He prays. Jesus' prayers in Gethsemane are prayers that show us more about His faithfulness

Why is this time of prayer so important? Asked a different way, what's so unique about this prayer?

There is perhaps nowhere else in the Bible where we get a more penetrating look at Jesus' own inner life and motivation and what he experienced at the end of his life.

From this passage we can learn, if we indeed watch, how to rightly order our understanding of who He is, how he expressed the reality of his situation and placed the outcomes in the appropriate hands.

I'm going to be reading this passage one segment at a time.

Mark 14:

26 “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”29 Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” 30 And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”31 But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.”

This is God’s word for us today. Thanks be to God

Mt. of Olives-public space, where he had stayed with people during the feast of Tabernacles. We know from the Gospel of John that Jesus was the Word and the Word was God. In John 1:14 it states, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. When he camped out with the attenders of the Feast who had no other place to stay, were seeing him dwelling among them and were seeing his glory. It was a John 1:14 moment then. Here is another one now.

As he goes to the Mt of Olives, we will see his glory in shown in His faithfulness. We will see;

Jesus is Faithful to his identity

Jesus is faithful in his emotions

Jesus is faithful to his Father

Jesus is faithful as a Shepherd

Jesus is faithful to recognize and embrace his hour

I. Jesus is faithful to his identity and destiny

- a. Unpack Zechariah 13 ““Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me,” declares the Lord of hosts. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.”Zechariah 13:7 ESV**
- b. Jesus understands that Zechariah was talking about him**
 - 1. He is the Shepherd. In John 10, Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep .**
 - 2. He also knows that what Zechariah predicted was that the sheep would be scattered.**
 - 3. AND HE ADDS, a “But”. And that “But” indicated that there was more to the story.**
 - 4. “After I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee”**
- c. Jesus understands and is faithful to his identity as Shepherd who will be struck down, which would be when he laid down life for his sheep.**

- d. He also understood that the sheep would be scattered, BUT he would be raised.
- e. But Peter hears only the first part of Jesus' statement about the sheep being scattered and he misses "But after I am raised up."
- f. It was a profoundly important part of the statement, but Peter only heard the first part
- g. What Peter heard seems to challenge his view of who he thought he was.
 - 1. He was the loyal 2nd in command
 - 2. He was the trusted disciple
 - 3. He had the Lord's ear and his confidence.
 - 4. He was faithful and nothing was going to happen to Jesus on his watch!
- h. Peter is caught up in himself and misses the promise Jesus made.
- i. Peter's didn't like the circumstances he found himself in
 - 1. He reacts and makes a promise that he can't keep.
 - 2. He thought the story was about him
 - 3. But the story is always first about Jesus.
- j. Jesus is faithful to what the scriptures stated and he is faithful to his identity as the Good Shepherd.
- k. Contrast him with Peter who has a hard time accepting that he is just a sheep who will not be able to stand the pressure that is soon to come. He wants to be more than who Jesus says he is.
 - 1. Some of us can be a lot like Peter, right? We don't like to think of ourselves as just like everyone else. We like to think that we are ones who are strong and capable, not vulnerable and weak.
 - 2. We are caught up in ourselves.
- l. The great thing is that Jesus knew who he was and he knew who Peter was....and he knows who we are.
- m. And the promise of being raised up was true no matter how Peter acted

Q. How do you celebrate and worship Jesus in and for his faithfulness to his identity

Q. Jesus made a promise that Peter didn't hear. He missed it because he was too caught up in himself. What promises from the Lord might you be missing because you are too caught up in yourself?

Transition

Location: Gethsemane-Garden

32 And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. 34 And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."

II. Jesus is faithful in his experience and expression of his emotions

- a. Gethsemane was the place where Jesus had been before, praying
 1. Throughout his earthly life, the Second person of the Trinity needed a place or places to get away and enjoy the beauty of nature and some time with His Father. And he did it often
 2. He went to the place where he had evidently prayed many times before.
- b. Gethsemane was on the Mount of Olives
 1. Olive branches were a symbol of peace, still are
 - a) But on this night, there would not be peace for Jesus
 2. The Mount of Olives was also a place where there was an Olive Press
 - a) Where the oil of the olives was pressed out. It took lots of pressure to press out the oil that was used for both food and for healing.
 - b) Jesus, like the olives, would be entering his own experience of pressure. It would not be pleasant, but it was necessary in order to fulfill his mission of saving the lost.
 - c) He knew what he was facing
 - (1) A gruesome death to pay for our sins.
 - (2) Jesus is an eternal person, so his death carries eternal value and eternal weight
 - (3) It's hard for us to completely understand, but because Jesus is eternal, eternity was packed into his six hours of suffering.
 - (4) But before he could face the betrayal, abandonment, trial and horrid death, he wanted and needed to be face to face with God in prayer.
 - (5) So he had come to Gethsemane to pray.
- c. When the only hope we have is God, we look for our own Gethsemane
- d. He asked 8 of the disciples to sit while he prayed
 1. **The 8 were told to wait. Just wait.**
 2. Sometimes, when God is at work, he will ask us to just wait.
 3. Waiting, in God's economy is a picture of trust. Let me do my work. Trust me for what's ahead.
 4. But we are impatient. I am impatient.
 - a) A lot of great qualities. Patience isn't one of them.
- e. **Took Peter, James & John with him. Companions. Just wanted friends close by.**
- f. As Jesus was walking away from the larger group of disciples with Peter, James, and John toward the garden for prayer, a change happens. This change happens as he is en route—it almost seems to descend upon him in real time. Not only was this mental agony so enormous that he thought he was going to die, but according to Mark he was astounded by it. Mark uses a Greek word (ekthambeisthai) that means to be moved to an "intense emotional state because of something causing great surprise or perplexity."
 1. He's reeling, dumbfounded, astonished. As he is on his way to pray, a darkness and horror comes down on him beyond anything he could have anticipated, and the pain of it makes him feel he is disintegrating on the spot.
 2. "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."
- g. This is Unfolding in real time for him and he states

- h. You know the Phrase “scared to death”
 - 1. That is what Jesus is literally experiencing
- i. ***He was saying, “I am experiencing an internal and mental agony and pain that is so great, I feel I am about to die.” It was so unbearable that he felt like the pain alone could kill him right then and there.-Tim Keller***
- j. Jesus is struggling here and he struggles before others and he struggles before God
- k. He is completely authentic about what was happening in his life.
- l. **Beautiful picture of honest emotional expression**
- m. **Fully God/fully man-shows depth of emotion**
- n. Jesus also revealed what was necessary for the disciples to do. **“Sit here and watch”**
 - 1. He wants companionship
 - 2. He wants their attention
 - 3. He wants them to **Watch**
 - a) In all the earth, it is only humans that God sets “on **watch.**” We are creatures given the ability to see, hear and ponder. We exist, in part, to bear witness of what God is doing. We get so preoccupied with what we think we want to do (Peter, please put that sword away) that we forget our most fundamental purpose is to **watch, worship and pray.**
 - 4. **Watching and Praying are all that Jesus gave them to do.**

Q What does faithfulness to your emotional realities look like for you as you enter into challenges?

Q What difficult situation is God asking you to Watch, Worship and Pray

Transition

Location: Jesus goes A little farther-a more intimate

35 And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 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.”

III. Jesus is faithful to his relationship with his Father

a.

1. Jesus knew that the hour for which he took on flesh was upon him.
2. Jesus had always been willing to Wait to hear what the Father wanted him to say and to do
3. But now he is hoping not to have to experience it
4. He needs his father.

b. Daddy

1. The personal nature of this time of prayer is seen by how he addresses God
 - a) Addresses God as Abba, Father
 - b) He is calling the sovereign God, "Daddy", then Father.
 - c) No word grabs the heart of a Father like the term "Daddy"
 - (1) There was a window of time when my children were young, somewhere between age 2 and maybe 7 or 8 when the phrase Daddy's home, would bring forth squeals of joy and laughter. That window of time closed, but the term Daddy, when spoken, especially with a request attached, would melt my heart, even if the request was beyond my capacity to answer. I can only imagine the emotional tug on the heart of the Father when Jesus said, **Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.**
 - (2) Intimate, direct,
 - d) Jesus knows that his Father can do anything
 - e) Jesus is expressing his angst and fear and he wants what most important on the night before his crucifixion
 - f) **He would welcome the opportunity to not have to drink the cup that is in front of him, but wants the relationship with his Father and what his Father's will is more than the absence of pain.**
 - g) He chooses the Father's will.

c. What do we get to watch and see here?

d. His Willingness! It is beautiful picture of trust and humility

Q. What do YOU see? Do you see the beauty and glory in the trust and humility of our Lord.

Q. Is this trust and humility worthy of your worship?

Transition

Location: shift in focus from location to disciples

37 And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? 38 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit

indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

IV. Jesus is faithful as a Shepherd as he invite/encourages/exhorts his disciples to pay attention

- a. Who matters most is seen by his choice of Companions
- b. Jesus chooses Peter, James and John
 - i. Same three that he choose to accompany him on the Mount of Transfiguration
 - ii. **You know what they did up there? According to Luke, they slept**
 - iii. These were the prized apprentices of Jesus, but in some of the biggest moments of the life of the Savior, they just fell asleep
 - iv. Jesus tells them to **watch and pray.**
 - v. **They had not been able to do it on the Mount of Transfiguration, and they could not do it here.**
 - vi. **He adds that the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**
 1. **The spirit here could have a double meaning**
 - a. **One might be that “your spirit is willing”. You came with me this far, I know you want to watch and pray, but your body is giving in to sleep instead of watching and praying**
 - b. **An additional meaning might be “The Holy Spirit is here and willing to help you. Just ask for his strength to watch and pray. I know your bodies are tired.”**
 2. But it is dark, and there is not enough light in the hearts of these men to see through it. They are at the ends of themselves. In time the gospel will fill their hearts with light and they will be able to see through the gloom, but not tonight. Soon they will be filled with God-given fire and holy purpose, but not tonight. Tonight they are perplexed and afraid.
- c. Jesus goes away and prays the same prayer

Q. What did they miss when they were asleep, not watching and praying?

Shift in the direction that Jesus takes

Location: moving back out

40 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. 41 And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.””

Mark 14:26-42 ESV

V. Jesus is faithful to recognize and embrace his hour

- a. The disciples just can't seem to help themselves, they are asleep
- b. Third time. Strike 3.
- c. Jesus says, It's enough
- d. **Kent Hughes** - Jesus, who so steeled himself in prayer while asking that the “hour might pass from him,” accepted it, saying, “The hour has come,” and went out to drink the cup and win the greatest victory ever won. The disciples all failed, and significantly Peter, who fell asleep three times, went on to deny his Lord by that same number—hardly a poetic coincidence! But all was not lost. Their scandal was to become their salvation because in the years to come all came to steel their lives in prayer. Peter and James died martyrs' deaths, and John was a man of steel who endured to the end. The lessons are here if we wish to see them.
- e. Encouragement to us. Aren't we often overwhelmed by our circumstances? What does Jesus ask us to do? Watch and pray. What will we see?

Conclusion:

As we look back on this night and see the beautiful humility and willingness of Jesus, it should move us to both an emotional and a volitional response.

The emotional response to the faithfulness of Jesus is one of **wonder and awe and worship** of who face what he was about to face with such courage, humility and trust.

The volitional response to the faithfulness of Jesus is one that Peter, James and John had the opportunity to do, but could not do. **Watch and pray.**

They were too overwhelmed. Jesus knew them. He knows us. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

We have the beautiful and awesome privilege of being able to look back on these events, events that led to the 3 days that changed history. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What does he ask of us as we look back?

Watch, wonder, ponder and pray. He is worthy of all of this.

FOLLOW

JESUS THROUGH THE BOOK OF MARK

PART 3: FOLLOW THE FAITHFULNESS OF JESUS



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MARK 14:26-31

JESUS IS FAITHFUL TO HIS IDENTITY AND DESTINY.

32 And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. 34 And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."

MARK 14:32-34

JESUS IS FAITHFUL IN HIS EXPERIENCE AND EXPRESSION OF HIS
EMOTIONS

He was saying, "I am experiencing an internal and mental agony and pain that is so great, I feel I am about to die." It was so unbearable that he felt like the pain alone could kill him right then and there.

-TIM KELLER

35 And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 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."

MARK 14:35-36

JESUS IS FAITHFUL TO HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER

37 And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? 38 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

MARK 14:37-39

JESUS IS FAITHFUL AS A SHEPHERD AS HE EXHORTS HIS DISCIPLES
TO PAY ATTENTION

40 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. 41 And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.””

MARK 14:40-42

JESUS IS FAITHFUL TO RECOGNIZE AND EMBRACE HIS HOUR