

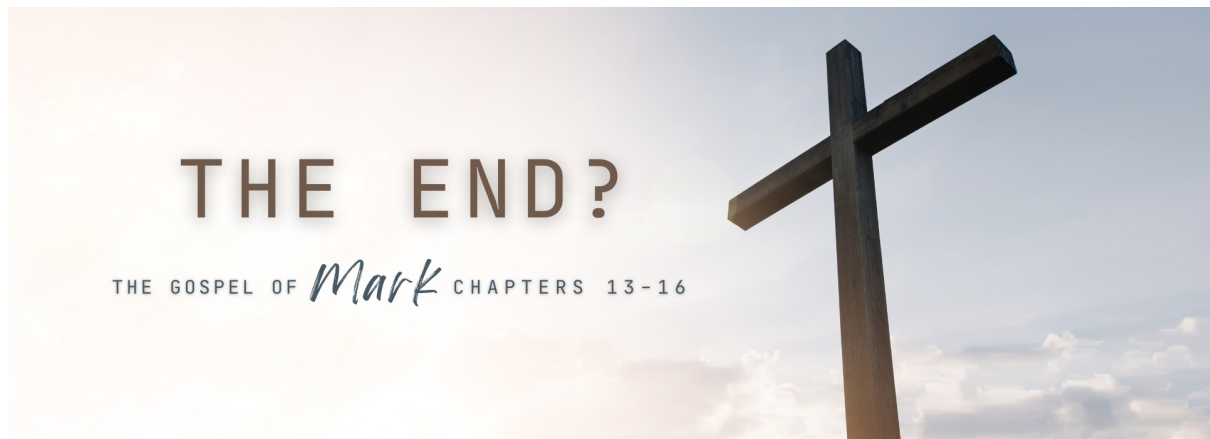
The End? - Part 3

The Garden

Randy Hageman

Part of The Gospel of MarkThe End?

March 24, 2023



And they went to a place called Gethsemane....

—Mark 14:32a (ESV)







gethsemane (Hebrew) = “press of oils or oil press”





*...And [Jesus] said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."
And he took with him Peter and James and John, and
began to be greatly distressed and troubled.*

—Mark 14:32b-33 (ESV)

Jesus wasn't hiding things from his disciples, but we see often that he didn't reveal everything to every disciple.

We need to have *someone* or *ones* we can talk to and share life's deepest struggles, as Jesus did with these three disciples.

Jesus showed his closest three disciples that he was feeling "greatly distressed and troubled."

And [Jesus] said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."

—Mark 14:34

In these verses Jesus is clearly showing these three disciples, and later, us, his complete humanity.

Being fully human means Jesus knows what *we're* going through.

And going a little farther, [Jesus] fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 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 (ESV)

Jesus didn't come to simply be a martyr, someone who dies for a cause, but he came to bring salvation to all who put their trust in him, and if that's possible without his horrible death on the cross, Jesus will welcome that.

Jesus realizes, as the lamb of God, that what he is facing is much more than simply a death, for he is taking upon himself all the sins of the world.

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

—2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

As sin, Jesus would experience something he had never known in all eternity - separation from God, for that's what sin does - it separates us from God.

The "cup" Jesus asks to be removed from him in vs. 36 is a

common metaphor found throughout the Bible to signify God's wrath, God's punishment and judgment of sin.

Wrath - "the emotional response to perceived wrong and injustice."

God's wrath always correctly perceives a "wrong" or "injustice," and so He reacts in righteous and just anger, something we human beings don't do well.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

—John 3:36 (ESV)

God is holy, and God's wrath is always against sin, which disrupts holiness.

God's wrath is directed against sin, and while God's wrath is upon an unbeliever, it's not *against* that person in the way we think of it because God still loves that individual *completely* and desires that that person come to faith in Jesus Christ.

When Jesus, on the cross, takes on the sins of the world, he becomes sin and therefore is separated from God and receives the wrath of God, the cup of God's wrath, which is his death, which is really the death we deserve.

Even though Jesus does ask, he is fully prepared, as he has been all along, to fully surrender to whatever God wants, knowing what God wants is always best!

For us to say, "... 'Yet not what I will, but what you will,'" is to put aside our wants and desires and will and, instead, seek and do God's Will.

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

same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. 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. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

—Mark 14:37-42 (ESV)

Following Jesus perfectly can't be done, at least not in this life, yet it's not an excuse to not try, and it's the reason in Acts 2 the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to live in each disciple, each follower of Jesus, was and is so critical then and now.

We need constant training - through reading and studying our Bibles, prayer, worship, community with other Christians and so much more - to bend our will increasingly to Jesus through the power of his Spirit.

We need this training so that commitment and obedience become the desire of our heart, to increasingly want to say, "not my will but your will be done, Jesus!"

Next Week: The End? - Arrest (Mark 14:43-72)