

Before you contend, check the cup.

Welcome to Life Church!

Hey if it is your first time, my name is Grant Glaze, and I am so glad you are joining us. On your seat when you walked in was a welcome to life card. We would love for you to scan that and join us next week after third service for free lunch and a time of connection. If you want to make us your church home, or you want to know more about us this is your next step.

There are 3 things you should know about us here at Life

1. **We want to be hospitable:** Particularly to those who would say I am not a Christian
Hospitality: Donuts, coffee, greeters, etc
2. **We want to be a safe place for the next generation:** Wednesday night. Every age.
Dinner. Egg hunt video
3. **We want to develop disciples who draw near to God and do everything He says.** That is our vision. Its simple. Draw near and do everything He says

I want to go ahead and direct you to two more things: On your seat were communion cups as you walked in and in the seat back pockets there are cards that look like this. We will need both of those at the end today because we want to take a survey together since everyone showed up this Sunday.

Well who is ready for the word of God?

Today we are launching a brand new series called contend: Everyone of us are fighting something. Everyone of us have pressures, anxieties, cares and concerns. Things that we wish were removed. But what if I told you some things don't get removed, but instead God teaches us how to resist them. They don't flee first. God teaches us to fight the good fight of faith in them. We don't escape them, but we engage with them. That is what we are going to look at the next four weeks. I can't wait for part two next week, but I am really excited for part 1.

Lets read our scripture //

The Prayer in the Garden

³⁹ Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed (What do you do consistently?), and His disciples also followed Him. ⁴⁰ When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

⁴¹ And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed,

⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ⁴³ [f] Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

⁴⁴ And being in agony (CONTENDING/ Not escaping, engaging. I will win this fight), He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

⁴⁵ When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. ⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

⁴⁷ And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

⁴⁹ When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³ When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness (act vs author)."

Today I want to preach from this title:

Before you contend, check the cup.

Last night my boys and I were watching some Instagram reels together. Most of the time we go there and find funny things to watch. However, last night by the grace of God, a video popped up. It was part 1 of 5. It takes dedication if you are going to tap into that long of a video. But not long in I was fascinated and moved. Tears began to come to my eyes and all of the sudden I was invested in someones life that I've never met. He wrote his parents a letter to read that ended with him giving them 100,000 dollars. And all the parents looked to their kids and said thats a good idea. But in it he wrote about how he was

losing in life. losing the fight. at his lowest place and what allowed him to start fighting back was remembering what his parents had done for him. Not just their example but also their sacrifices. When he remembered their sacrifices he stopped fighting the wrong fights and started down the path of fighting the right fights.

Hear me: Before you can fight the right fights you have to receive the sacrifice of Jesus.

Whats interesting is that before this revelation and after this revelation this son was in a fight because life is a fight no matter what. But it was after the revelation that he started fighting a fight that was worth fighting.

Today I am praying that as we look at the scriptures that you would see the sacrifice of Jesus and you would start fighting the right fights.

I want to show 4 things from the scripture today and I am going to give them to you now. I want to look at

1. The Cup
2. The Blood
3. The revealing
4. The invitation

First the cup

Scripture //verse 41-42 "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Thought // WHY DOES THIS CUP MATTER?

Illustration // Imagine with me for a moment that you were walking down the side walk and someone tackled you and said I SAVED YOU... Your first question would probably be from what?

Application // That is why this cup matters. I could take you on a long journey of the significance of the cup here. The cup is what we are saved from if we believe in Jesus. So many scriptures could build a beautiful picture. But God showed me something this week in one of the scriptures. Can I show it to you. You can't really stop me haha

31 You have gone the way of your sister; therefore I will give her cup into your hand. **32** Thus says the Lord God:

"You shall drink your sister's cup
that is deep and large;

you shall be laughed at and held in derision,
for it contains much;

33 you will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow.

A cup of horror and desolation,
the cup of your sister Samaria;
34 you shall drink it and drain it out,
and gnaw its shards,
and tear your breasts; for I have spoken, declares the Lord God. **35** Therefore thus says
the Lord God: Because you have forgotten me and cast me behind your back, you
yourself must bear the consequences of your lewdness and whoring."

The cup wasn't poured by God. The cup was poured by me.

- my brokenness
- my lack of trust
- my desire to control
- my passions that wage war within myself
 - I poured the cup
 - Can we stop blaming God for the cup?

We must ask what is the consequence of this cup? What does it demand? Romans 8 tells us that:

23 For the wages of sin *is* death

We have to start here because why fight any battles if they end in death? Everyone of us has poured a cup. Everyone of us have fallen short of the glory of God. So we deserve this cup. N.T. Wright defines the cup like this:

"The cup is the full weight of Israel's failure, the world's sin, and the powers of evil—and Jesus chooses to take it upon Himself to set everything right." - NT Wright

Which leads us to

The blood

Scripture // **43** [1] Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. **44** And being in agony (CONTENDING/ Not escaping, engaging. I will win this fight), He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Thought // here we see Jesus step in. He doesn't escape the fight. He faces it and engages the fight. He chooses not to pass the cup.

Its important it is Jesus. Man not animal. Spotless not blemished. Divine not human.

He chooses pain because of His passion for you and I. He chooses to take the cup for you and for me. It is here He chooses to do it, but it is on the cross that He ultimately does it. Because He loves you. He endured the pain of the cup because He loves you.

Illustration // A king stepping in for his child. Imagine I was a king.

Application // Jesus doesn't just bear the pain, but He claims to defeat it watch what He says on the cross

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" **29** Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. **30** So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. John 19:28-30

Jesus is claiming: I finished the cup. I accomplished it. The wrath that has been poured is now dealt with. Because the depths of human depravity are no match for the depths of divine love. God stepped in. God bought us back. Are there any blood bought believers in the room?

Which brings us to
the revealing

Scripture // He rises up, but they don't understand

When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. **46** Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

47 And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. **48** But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

49 When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" **50** And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

51 But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? **53** When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness(act vs author)."

Jesus couldn't just claim He finished it. He needed to confirm He finished it.

Valet validation

The resurrection is where everything hinges. If He isn't living, He is dead. And the cup isn't taken care of.

Here is the confirmation:

1. He did die
2. The empty tomb
 - a. The tomb was known and guarded
 - b. Women were the first witnesses (not culturally advantageous—actually *hurts* credibility in that time)
 - c. No body was ever produced

If the body were still there:

Christianity ends immediately

3. Early Eye Witnesses
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 contains an early creed

Scholars date this to within **a few years of the resurrection.**

It says Jesus appeared to:

- Peter
- The twelve
- Over **500 people at once**
- James
- Paul

This isn't legend developing over centuries It's **early, eyewitness-based testimony**

4. Transformation of disciples
 - a. Before:
 - b. Afraid
 - c. Hiding
 - d. Scattered

After:

- Bold
- Public
- Willing to die

Most of them were martyred.

The key question:

What explains that change?

People may die for what they *think* is true...

But not for what they **know is a lie.**

5. The birth of the church
 - a. Something explosive happened in history:

- b. A small, frightened group
- c. Becomes a global movement

Centered on one claim:

"He is risen"

Not:

"His teachings live on" "His spirit inspires us"

But:

He physically rose

7. Alternative theories don't hold up

"The disciples stole the body"

Doesn't explain their willingness to die

"They hallucinated"

Hallucinations aren't group experiences (especially 500 people)

"Jesus didn't really die"

Contradicts medical and historical evidence

"Legend developed over time"

Too early—accounts are immediate

The resurrection is **the best explanation** of the historical facts.

Not blind faith...

Evidence-based belief

Finally, lets look at

the invitation

John 21:12-19

I want to show you a beautiful image of what the invitation is

Before the revealing

Peter = sleeping and swinging

Stuck in regret

After the revealing

Peter = set back into the right fight, standing and doing what He was made to do

Here is the confirmation I have made it possible // trade me cups

Reject this cup - receive the penalty of your regrets

Receive my cup as a gift - receive the gift of my redemption

Communion and altar call

A- I ALREADY KNOW GOD

B- I BEGIN A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TODAY

C- I WANT TO CONSIDER WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO IN MY LIFE

D- I DON'T EVER INTEND TO MAKE THAT DECISION