

IN GETHSEMANE

INTRODUCTION

1. Matt. 26:30-47. And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let us cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." And he came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand." And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.
2. The passover had been observed.
3. Judas had departed to betray our Lord.
4. The Lord's Supper had been instituted.
5. They sang a song - perhaps the Hallel - and crossed Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives.

NOTE: GETHSEMANE - MEANS OIL PRESS

I. OUR LORD LEFT GETHSEMANE PREPARED FOR CALVARY.

- A. Mary Austin, A Small Town Man describes the scene.

(3) "The city hummed with the sounds of festivity - lamps lit in the upper chambers, family reunions,

hurrying groups of belated pilgrims - as between two swords the little company passed out almost under the temple, whose great gates would be flung open at midnight, by the north gate into the Valley of Jehoshaphat and across Kidron. At this season the little creek would have been at flood, frothing in its stony channel. There was a full, watery moon, and the smell of sap from the orchards. Up a little way from Kidron toward Olivet was a walled garden called Gethsemane, the place of the oil-press, to which he had the owner's leave to repair for rest and privacy. Here the noise of the city fell off and there was no sound louder than the babble of the brook and the soft chafing of boughs. Taking James and Peter and John with him, leaving the others at the gate, Jesus advanced farther into the garden, and when he had charged the three to pray lest they fall into temptation, he went about a stone's throw from them, and kneeling, addressed himself to the Father."

B. He must drink the cup of suffering alone.

1. Mark 10:38. But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"
2. Luke 22:20. Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

C. He was rejected by his own people.

1. John 1:11. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
2. Matt. 23:37-39. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

a. The Jews historically rejected spiritual truth.

- (i) I Cor. 10:1-13. Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and

drink, and rose up to play." Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

- (ii) Heb. 3:1-4, 13. Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

... but exhort one another daily, while it is called "today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

- (iii) Deut. 32:15. But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, and scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.
- (iv) Acts 7:51-53. "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."
- (v) 2 Cor. 3:15. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

D. Betrayed by his own disciples.

1. Psalm 41:9. Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.
2. John 18:1-5. When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them.
3. Matt. 26:31-35, 58, 69-75. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.

But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.

Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

E. He was to tread the winepress alone.

1. Isa. 63:1-3. Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? "I have

trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes."

2. I Pet. 2:24. Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed.

"Life is one continued battle,
Never ended, never o'er;
And the Christian's path to glory
Is a conflict evermore.

"Satan ever watches round him,
Seeks to find the weakest part,
And in moments most unheeded.

F. He was God Incarnate - Complete Man and God.

1. Phil. 2:5-8. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
2. Heb. 2:14-18. Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

"'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow,
The star is dimmed that lately shone:
'Tis midnight - in the garden now
The suffering Savior prays alone.

"'Tis midnight, and from all removed,
The Savior wrestled lone with fears -
E'en that disciple whom He Loved
Heeds not his Master's grief and tears."

G. Our Master prays alone.

1. Luke 22:39-46. Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed,

saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

"Down shadowy lanes, across strange streams,
Bridged over by our broken dreams;
Behind the misty caps of years,
Behind the great salt fount of tears,
The garden lies. Strive as you may,
You cannot miss it in your way.
All paths that have been, or shall be,
Pass somewhere through Gethsemane.

"All those who journey, soon or late,
Must pass within the garden's gate,
Must kneel alone in darkness there,
And battle with some fierce despair.
God pity those who cannot say,

"Not mine but Thine!" - who only pray,
'Let this cup pass,' and cannot see
The purpose in Gethsemane."

2. Modern Christians do not know the meaning of sacrifice - much less of agony.

NOTE: A certain minister, at the close of a Lord's Day service, made this announcement: "I shall take for my subject next Lord's Day morning, 'The Great Flood in Genesis.'" Whereupon one of his wealthy parishioners arose in a rear pew and said: "Brother Minister, I must ask you to excuse me, as I shall not be able to attend this service much as I would like to do so. I have an engagement to play golf and I cannot break it. However, you may put me down for a contribution of one thousand dollars to help the suffering Genesians."

II. KENOSIS - THE HUMILIATION OF GOD.

A. The Apostle Paul describes his eternal pre-existence.

1. Phil. 2:5-10. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
2. He emptied himself.

- (a) Luke 23:28. But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."
- 3. Took on the form of servant.
 - (a) John 17:5. "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."
- 4. Became obedient unto death.
 - (a) Acts 4:11-12. "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
 - (b) I Cor. 15:25-26. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.
 - (c) Heb. 12:2. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- B. He could look beyond Gethsemane and the Cross.
 - 1. To the joy of redeeming lost souls.
 - 2. To the joy of reunion with the Father.
 - 3. To the joy of meeting His saints in glory.
 - 4. To the joy of leading His church to victory.
 - (a) 2 Pet. 1:4. By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
 - (b) Heb. 12:1-2. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the same, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. After the agony of Gethsemane, our Lord faced the mob from Jerusalem with courage.