

Date: 05.04.2020

Time: 6pm

Service taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46

Outline:

a) Introduction

1. Jesus' attitude

2. Jesus' disciples

3. Jesus' prayer

4. Jesus' sufferings

- **Introduction**

We begin a short study on 3 places we learn about in the final hours of Jesus' life: where Jesus prays, where Jesus is accused, where Jesus is crucified. We begin with Gethsemane, the place where Jesus prays.

1) Jesus' attitude

Determination: The Father reveals the way ahead to the Son. Jesus knows what is happening, but is determined to keep going. He doesn't try to change the Father's plan. The Garden of Gethsemane was a familiar place to Jesus and His disciples – Jesus could have escaped, but instead He went to where Judas would be sure to find Him. Jesus was willing and determined to do what needs done to seek and to save those who were lost.

Submission: Three times Jesus asked that this cup in front of Him pass from Him. Jesus was holy and perfect, but had to drink the cup of God's wrath. Jesus was seeing what God's wrath against sinners involved, but was willing to surrender His will to the will of the Father. Jesus appeals to the love of the Father, asking if there was a way to save His people without God's wrath, but there was no other way. Jesus came to do all that the Father commanded Him to do. He came to save us and to serve the Father. He came to do what God required that we could not do. We were guilty and dirty before God and couldn't pay the price required. But Jesus satisfied all of God's requirements. He was determined to save us whatever the price, so had to submit Himself to the will of the Father.

We are saved not because we earnestly sought the Lord or because we were determined to be saved. We are saved because Jesus was determined to save us. His desire and passion was for our salvation. The Son became a servant, obedient even unto death.

2) Jesus' disciples

Unreliable: Jesus takes John, James and Peter with Him to the Garden to pray with Him. The eleven disciples said that they'd die for Jesus – their profession of faith was tested and they failed miserably. The disciples fell asleep rather than pray with Jesus. They were unreliable and untrustworthy guards and men. They said one thing with their lips, but did something else with their actions.

Ignorant: The disciples didn't and couldn't understand what Jesus was going through in the garden. There was a gulf between Jesus' experience in His soul and the disciples' understanding.

Weak: The disciples' spirits might have been willing, but their flesh was certainly weak. The disciples were weak. In some ways, they were a hindrance to Christ in many ways. They couldn't give Jesus the help He needed.

We see so much of ourselves in the disciples. How often we've misunderstood God's will and God's Word. How often we've failed Him. We make promises to God with our lips, but then do something else. We don't understand Jesus. We are asleep in spiritual things. We are weak and cannot serve Him as we should. If we'd have been in the garden, we'd have fallen asleep like the disciples. But we're reminded of the grace and patience of God towards His disciples and towards us. He doesn't give up on us or stop working in us. The compassion of Jesus towards His disciples is amazing. It is amazing that God still loves me – as His disciple, I've failed Him. I've lived for myself and not Him. I've been asleep spiritually. But in spite of all this, He still calls me "friend!"

3) Jesus' prayer

Earnest: Jesus' position in prayer in the garden is with His face on the ground. He lies on the ground in total submission to the Father. Jesus poured out His soul before the Father. In His unspeakable suffering, He was earnest in prayer.

Reverent: There is familiarity and intimacy in the prayer of Christ. Jesus submits to the will of the Father.

Heard: Jesus prayed with faith and expectation that His prayer to the Father would be heard; not with the cup of God's wrath being removed, but with the Father's will being done. Jesus' prayer was heard. The Father answers Jesus' prayer; He sends an angel to comfort Jesus. The cup of God's wrath had to be drunk, but Jesus would rise from the death – death would be defeated.

4) Jesus' sufferings

Growing: As Jesus read more of Scripture, He learned more of what was expected of Him. Jesus had a growing understanding of what the cost of saving His people would mean.

Real: Jesus' knowledge became reality. His pain increased so that He sweats blood and His soul was sorrowful to the point of death.

Comprehensive: Jesus as a man did not like death. As a righteous, perfect man, He did not deserve death. His suffering was physical, social and psychological. His pain was so real, but His greatest suffering was spiritual.

Spiritual: Jesus died alone on the cross, separated from the Father. His spiritual suffering was the most terrible of all. God the Father would show Jesus no mercy – He would be made to be sin. As Jesus stood before Hell, He was overwhelmed. We might at times doubt our salvation and fear Hell – this takes all of our joy away. Jesus knew He would experience Hell for us.

Perfecting: Jesus' suffering was to make a perfect Saviour. This word "perfect" means complete in this context. Jesus was and always will be perfect. He became our all-sufficient Saviour as He learned obedience. He became our Redeemer to save us to the uttermost.

The only way to save us was through Jesus' suffering. We cannot fully grasp the suffering Jesus went through. But we know that because He was cursed, we are blessed. Because He was forsaken, we are found. Because of God's wrath on Jesus, we experience God's favour. Because God hid His face from Jesus on the cross, God's face shines on us. If He didn't suffer, we wouldn't be saved.