

Remnant Life Church  
April 15, 2022  
*Good Friday*  
**His Agony for Our Access**  
Matt 26:36-46

While I believe that every one of us recognizes that Jesus died a horrible physical death for us on the cross, few of us fully comprehend the agony He suffered before that event in the Garden of Gethsemane

- The Gospels' recording of Jesus in these last few days of His earthly life show Him in a way that we had not seen before
  - He is more emotional
  - He is much more expressive
  - He is perhaps more human in these hours than at any other time of His earthly life
- The agony of Jesus in the garden, is the agony of God and man in one
  - To understand that statement is to understand and accept that Jesus maintained His divine nature even as He lived in His humanity.
    - IOW He was a man who was at the same time still God
    - His dual nature was separate but acted in union in the life of Jesus
      - This is known as the Hypostatic Union
- And while we cannot experience what Jesus was dealing with in Gethsemane or know the agony of the cross, we can gratefully acknowledge what they mean to each of us
  - They are the gateway to life for each of us
  - They are the reason we live in hope
    - They do not remove us from the struggles of this life or the attacks of the enemy
    - They do not ensure that all elements of our life are going to be fair
    - But they do provide for us a assurance, peace and comfort knowing that this life is not all there is
    - For the Christian there is the promise of life eternal with Jesus in the presence of our perfect, glorious, Almighty God
  - That is what Gethsemane and Calvary means for each of us

I would like for us to briefly look a little more closely at Jesus' struggle in the Garden that night just prior to His arrest

**READ – Matthew 26:36-46**

This account takes place after Jesus and the disciples had left the upper room where the Last Supper took place

- Their menu (if you will) that evening was in compliance with the first Passover meal as given to Moses by God as they prepared to begin their exodus out of Egypt (**Exodus 12**)
- And what they did that evening is the origin of our ordinance of communion – which we will be taking together here in just a few minutes.

I have always been intrigued by what Jesus was experiencing in the Garden that final night

- We read in **Matt 26:37**, *He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with Him, and He began to be sorrowful and troubled.*
  - Began – the first, a beginning
  - Sorrowful – to grieve; deep penetrating sadness
  - Troubled – heaviness of mind; distress
- What Matthew is telling us is that Jesus, for the very first time, was experiencing a depth of emotion that began, what we call, the agony of the cross
  - Because His agony did not begin when the first lash of the whip tore into His back nor when the first vicious blow of the hammer drove the 6” tapered spike into His wrist
  - He began to agonize emotionally as he entered the Garden of Gethsemane

You see, it was not the physical death on the cross that Jesus was agonizing over in Gethsemane

- As a matter of fact, He had stated emphatically that He came for the express purpose of dying (**Matt 20:28**)
- The divinity of Jesus knew what needed to take place in order for mankind to be able to come into fellowship with God again – to defeat the effects of sin
- His struggle that evening was that the humanity side of Him may not be able to get through this horrific ordeal He knew awaited Him
  - Now there was never a doubt of what the Son of God was going to accomplish
  - Satan was unable to dissuade Him from that side of His nature
  - But Satan’s desire was that Jesus would endure and experience the cross only as the Son of Man
  - Because if He had done that, He could not have been our Savior
- But Jesus had been down this road with Satan before
  - Consider what Jesus is dealing with now in the Garden in light of what happened in the desert following His baptism by John the Baptist
  - Satan threw all of the temptations most attractive to man at Jesus – power, wealth, and fame
  - And in **Luke 4:13** we read, *When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left Him until an opportune time.*
  - That time had come and Satan was back once again to attempt one last time to prevent the merciful plan of God to be brought to its fulfillment
  - And just as he had failed in the desert, he would fail here as well
- And because he failed in his effort to strip Jesus of His divinity, we were given access to the very presence of God as those who are now forgiven with the penalty for our sin paid in full!

The agony of Gethsemane was the Son of God carrying every sin of the world, every transgression of humanity on Himself and the indescribable grief of separation from His Father in that moment.

- Jesus cried out, My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me? (**Matt 27:46**)
- Yet in the midst of all of the physical, emotional, and yes, spiritual horror of what was taking place, Jesus fulfilled His destiny to be the Savior of the world.

His agony paved the way for our access to the Father

- No longer separated by the uncrossable divide of sin
- The price was paid...in full so that nothing of our doing could ever be regarded as responsible for the gift we have been given.

I would like to conclude our time together by quoting Oswald Chambers, the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Scottish Baptist evangelist and teacher.

- Perhaps most well-known for the devotional *My Utmost for His Highest* which published four years after his death at the young age of 43
- This sentence is a perfect summation of what I have shared with you this evening
  - *Because of what the Son of Man went through, every human being has been provided with a way of access into the very presence of God.*