

GRIEF IN THE GARDEN

Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:44

Introduction: Having eaten the Passover and spent time with His disciples, Jesus then went with them to the Mount of Olives and entered into the garden of Gethsemane. It was in a garden that Adam brought sin and destruction upon every human being after him and therefore it was fitting that another garden should be the proper place for the "second" Adam to restore mankind back to God. Jesus had often gone to the garden of Gethsemane to pray and therefore it was familiar to His disciples as well for later on Judas brought soldiers there to take Jesus prisoner, knowing that was where Jesus would probably be. It was there in the garden of Gethsemane that Jesus grieved and agonized over what was to happen shortly.

I. WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF JESUS SEVERE GRIEF AND AGONY?

1. Jesus was a "*...man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...*" throughout His whole life but had been at peace during His entire ministry, no matter what He faced, but now His calmness changed and His peace was gone, He began to grieve and agonize in prayer.
2. Jesus' deep sorrow and distress were not because of any bodily pain.
 - Never had Jesus complained of any physical suffering during His entire life.
 - Jesus did cry/weep when His friend Lazarus died but that was not what bothered Him now.
 - There was something more sorrowful than death, something sharper than physical pain, more cutting than ridicule and reproach which made Jesus so sorrowful and heavy.
3. Was Jesus dreading the coming crucifixion, fearing all the mocking and jeering? Was Jesus afraid to die?
 - Every person dreads death, but Jesus had power over death and could avoid death if He wanted to.
 - History reveals that countless Christians gladly went to their deaths for the cause of Christ and have been called martyrs, so dying physically was not the cause of Jesus' intense grief.
4. It was not an attack from Satan that brought such grief and agony to Jesus for Jesus had defeated Satan many times, starting when He began His ministry and Satan took Jesus aside to try to get Him to do things Satan's way.
 - To put His foot on Satan's head was an easy thing for Jesus to do but something was coming that brought grief and agony to Jesus' soul.
5. Jesus knew that He had to take a certain cup from His Heavenly Father's hand.
 - Not from the Jews, not from Judas the traitor, not from Satan, not from the sleeping disciples.
 - The cup was from God, His Heavenly Father.
 - A cup which touched His soul and troubled His heart.
 - A cup more dreadful than physical pain, more dreadful than reproach, more awful than any Satanic temptation, more terrible beyond one's thinking, coming from God's own hand.
 - "*...The Lord hath made to meet on Him the iniquity of us all...*" "*...He hath made Him to be sin for us though He knew no sin...*"
 - THIS is what caused Jesus such extraordinary grief and agony. He was about to taste death for every person, to bear the curse which was due to sinners, because He must stand in the sinner's place and must suffer in the sinner's place.

6. Jesus was realizing what it was to be a sin bearer.
 - As the Son of God, He was perfectly holy and incapable of sin, and was without any taint of original sin, and spotless pure, YET, He had to bear sin, to be led forth as the scape goat bearing the iniquity of the sins of mankind upon His head.
 - To be made a sin offering.
 - Jesus' mind was not intently fixed upon the dreadful nature of sin, now He was about to experience sin's deadly nature, its horrible result.
 - Jesus was about to bear numbered among the transgressors, to be wounded for their transgressions, to be bruised for their iniquities.
 - It was not the wounding nor bruising that distressed Him so much as the fact of becoming one among the other sinners. A SINNER over whelmed His soul.

7. Jesus was now seeing that the penalty of sin had to be borne and He had to be the one to do it.
 - It was no small thing to make recompense to the justice of God for the sins of mankind.
 - All penalties of sin were put into that cup which God gave to Jesus to drink for mankind.
 - It was not eternal suffering which brought such anguish for He was eternal.
 - It was the shadow of the coming desertion which He had to endure.
 - When Jesus stood where WE (sinners) would stand and paid to His Father's justice the debt which WE owed, this made Jesus sorrow and grieve.
 - To be treated as a sinner, to be smitten as a sinner, even though He had no sin, THIS was what caused Jesus so much agony and grief.

II. WHAT WAS JESUS' GRIEF LIKE?

1. Jesus' great grief and suffering was in His soul.
 - Trouble of spirit is worse than pain of body for pain may bring trouble and be the cause of sorrow, but the mind is well and untroubled and pain can be borne, but when the soul is in sorrow, bodily pain can come.
 - Pain of spirit is the worst of pain, sorrow of heart is the climax of grief.

2. Jesus was sorrowful in His heart causing His deep depression and grief.
 - One burning thought consumed His whole soul creating no avenue for relief or comfort.
 - His position as sin bearer and the desertion by His Heavenly Father swept over His very being and His heart was very heavy.
 - When deep despondency comes one forget everything that might sustain and one's spirit sinks down and down and down.
 - Jesus was first sorrowful, then depressed and then sore amazed, filled with amazement for it was now time to undertake what He had ultimately come to do, bear the sins of mankind and stand in sinful mankind's place before God as the sinner's representative.

3. Jesus was in great agony.
 - The word "agony" is like unto a conflict, a contest, a wrestling.
 - With whom did Jesus wrestle? Was it not Himself?
 - Jesus could have walked away and ascended back into heaven that very hour but His great love for US, mankind, said "bear it, do it..."
 - Jesus was being dragged back and forth by His emotions. No wonder He sweated such sweat.

III. WHAT IS JESUS' EXAMPLE IN ALL OF THIS?

1. Jesus stayed in prayer.
 - Prayer was Jesus' channel of relief, comfort as it was intense, reverent and repeated as He went to His disciples three times and each time He returned to resume praying.
 - Jesus' great comfort was prayer and submission to God's divine will.
 - Here is a source of relief and comfort to any who have heavy griefs, do what Jesus did, go to God in prayer, cry out to your Heavenly Father, and submit yourself to His will.
2. Jesus' real humanity is seen.
 - Jesus can sympathize with US for He has been burdened with all that you and I ever will be burdened with and grieved with all that will ever cause us grief.
 - Jesus can sympathize with us in our sorrows for He has suffered far more than we will ever suffer.
 - Jesus can become a close friend, a brother and will be near to help us through whatever life brings.
3. Jesus shows the horrible penalty for sin.
 - Every person is a sinner, yet Jesus never was, yet He stood in the sinner's place which was so dreadful to Him that He was filled with agony, grief and sorrow to His death.
 - If people really could know what sin is and what the wrath of God is that rests on them and what the judgments of God will be that will upon their death surround and destroy them, surely they would turn away from sin and turn to Jesus who has already paid their debt to God.
4. Jesus' matchless love for mankind is seen.
 - For the sake of every human being Jesus not only suffered bodily pain but consented to bear the horror of standing in the sinner's place coming under the wrath of God because of sin.
 - Since Jesus did so much for mankind, surely there's something WE can do in return to/for Jesus?
5. What Jesus did for the sins of mankind was complete.
 - What Jesus did guaranteed justification for those who believe in Him.
 - God will not demand payment twice for one's sins for Jesus has already paid full what every human being/sinner owes to God's judgment.
 - The fires of God's avenging justice has been poured out upon Jesus and will never be poured out again upon those who believe in Him.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus came to seek and to save those which are lost.
2. Jesus was not only willing to die for mankind, but He was willing to be separated from His heavenly Father upon being numbered among sinners which He never was before.
3. Jesus' Garden of Gethsemane experience reveals just how much He cares for mankind and how much struggle He went through to complete His mission of bringing salvation to mankind.
4. Every person ought to take a good, long, reverent look at what Jesus went through in the Garden of Gethsemane and try to realize what Jesus ultimately went through with for mankind.