

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

Day: Good Friday 2019
Services: 730am, 930am and 930am
Series: Easter
Title: #01 Take this cup from me
Passage: Luke 22:39-46
Aim: To so explain the amazing nature of what Jesus did in drinking the cup of God's wrath, so that people fall in humility and awe and wonder before him.

The words used to describe how Jesus felt in the garden here are very **sobering**.

Jesus we read.... /, is in **anguish**.

He's crying **out**

He's **sweating profusely**

He's **deeply troubled**. //

why?

What is going **on** here?

Why is **Jesus**, who **predicted** his death and kept **heading** to Jerusalem to **meet** it, now in **anguish**?

Is he having **second thoughts**? //

The answer **must** be that Jesus is aware that he is to face something **more** than a **physical death**! /

He knew **why** he was going to die – he told us - Mark 10:45 – *to give his life as a ransom for many*

he was set to give his body and pour out his blood **for many** – on **their** behalf – in their **place** – for the **new covenant** – so there might be **forgiveness** for **sin**!

But **now** we see what that will **entail**. //

Let me ask you – what might it be like for you to stand before a **holy** and **almighty** God and answer for your **own sin**? - for **every** failing and act of **rebellion** you personally, have known?

Now let me ask you – what might it be like for you – to stand before a holy and almighty God and answer for every sin of **every person** in the **world**? – for **every** failing and act of **rebellion** of **every** person throughout **history**?

To take the wrap for every **sin** and **crime** and act of **malice** and **evil** in **all** the **world**?

Friends, **here** is the **reality** – we focus a lot on the **physical** agony of the cross.

And without a doubt it was the **cruellest** way of **dying** a human being has **known**...

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But that wasn't the **worst** bit of what Jesus anticipated...

becoming the **sin-bearer** for **all humanity**, meant complete **alienation** from God...

It was **this** that Jesus was anticipating!

...identifying with sinners **so fully** as to become the **object** of God's **wrath** for **sin**...

This is what overwhelms Jesus' soul 'to the point of death' as one of the other gospels puts it.

God was going to pour out his **righteous** and **appropriate anger**, **full** strength, **undiluted**, onto his **Son**.

Can you imagine with me for a **moment** – an angel's bulletin board?? – (I'm making this up...)

30 years earlier a bulletin had gone out to angels that God the Son was lying in a bed of straw in **Bethlehem**. **And they angels were astonished** - and sent to sing his praises to the shepherds.

Now the bulletin reads that the Lord of glory is in the **garden** of **Gethsemane** and one of the angelic hosts has gone to **minister** to him... again they are staggered!!

So **what** does Jesus pray as he contemplates all this?

Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done

It's how he had taught his disciples to pray!

Your kingdom **come**... **your will** be **done** on **earth** as it is in **heaven**...

He prays that the **cup** might be taken **from** him so that he might not suffer the alienation from his **Father** for our **sin**!

Jesus' plea suggests that he is genuinely **tempted** as he anticipates all that is involved, to **forsake** the role of the **suffering servant**.

Nevertheless, his **will** to obey the **Father**, is **stronger** than the desire to serve **himself**.

he submits to the **Father's will**... to **drink** the **cup**... to **take** the **wrath**... to **pay** the **debt**.

Not **my** will, but **yours** be **done**. //

The **moment** – the **struggle** – the **agony** was **lost** on Jesus' disciples.

They fell **asleep**.

The **spirit** was willing but the body **weak**.

Exhausted from **sorrow**.

And Jesus exhorts them to pray so they won't fall into temptation. ///

hours later the **next** bulletin goes on the **angels' notice board**...

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if you thought it was incredible that the Son of God was **lying** in a **manger** or that he was **crying** like great **drops of blood** in **Gethsemane**...

...let me tell you what the **latest** is... the Lord of **glory** is **bleeding** on a **cross**...! //

he who cast stars into **space**... he who created **all things** by his **word**.. is now to be found nailed on a **Roman cross**...

and that's not **all**...

the news was out.. that the **Father** had turned his **back** on his **Son**... that he was on that cross and crying out to his Father... **why have you forsaken me?**

From a **throne**... to a **manger**... to a **cross**... to **cut off** from the **Father**...

For **you**... and for **me**...

I wonder if this moment is lost on **us here** this this morning?

Do you **know** what this means for you? //

You are so **deeply** loved that Jesus was willing to **drink** the cup of God's **wrath**, so that **you** might take the **cup of life**!

Because he chose **submission** to his **Father's** will, **you** are **free**

Because he chose **not** to be free, **you** are **free**

Freed from the **bonds of sin**

Freed from the **penalty of sin**

Freed from the **power** of sin

Freed from the Father's **wrath**

Freed from **death**

Freed from the **evil one**

Because **he** died, you **live**!

Are you **sleepy**?

Does it **bore** you?....

or **thrill** you?

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Do you **understand** what's been done for you?

Are you **silenced** in **awe**?

Mouth **open** in **shock**?

Humbled in **heart**?

Grateful to the core of your **being**? */////*

He has **loved** you. *///*

Do you love **him**? *///*

Do you think it was a **light** thing for Jesus to bear our sin??

If you think it was a **light** thing – then you'll respond as if it doesn't make any **difference**...

you'll live with Jesus, **half-heartedly**...

sin will be no **big deal**...

Jesus will be on the **side** line of your **life** – you'll pay him **scant attention**...

But you think it was a **huge** thing – your whole **life** will tell the story...!

– you'll stand in **awe** at his **sacrifice**

– and you'll **fall** in **humble, thankful praise**...