

**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.

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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**...

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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**!

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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**...