



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- The last supper of Jesus with His disciples was just finished...
- He predicted the betrayal by Judas
(**Matthew 26:21-25**)
- He observed the Passover, instituting the Lord's Supper
(**Matthew 26:26-30**)

- He then foretold Peter's denial of Him, as they made their way to the Mount of Olives (**Matthew 26:31-35**)

- Finally arriving at a place called Gethsemane...

- Gethsemane means
“oil press”
in Hebrew.
- It was called a garden
but it was more
than a garden.
- It was an olives farm
with an olive oil press.

- Jesus and his disciples entered into the Garden at around 10-11 pm Thursday night before

He died on Friday
around 3 pm.

- So it was less than 12 hours before

He was crucified on the cross.

- I believe it was Jesus' darkest night of His life.

- What we see in Gethsemane was the most painful and lonely moment in Jesus' life.

- He knows that within hours he will be put to death.
- The wrath of God will be poured out on him as a substitute for us.
- The wrath of God was something Jesus had never experienced before.

- The garden was a place where **Jesus often went** with His disciples (**John 18:1-2**)
- Before we get any further let us note **two things:**

- **# 1** In the first garden
the First man
fell by yielding to temptation.
- **# 2** In the second garden
the Second man
conquered by yielding
to the will of God.
 - But the victory
did not come easy,
as we shall notice.

- Some of you know what it is like to be in the darkest night.
- You have been there:
 - Lonely,
 - Devastated,
 - Anxious,
 - Abandoned,
- Maybe even facing death.

- Even your closest friends or your spouse was not able to understand the darkness and the excruciating pain that you have experienced.

- Why did Jesus have to go through this?
- He is the One who knew “no sin”
- He is the perfect Son of God.

- Now he was in the darkest place in the darkest moment in His life.
- The sin of the whole world was about to unload on him.
 - Let us go into the Garden with Jesus.

- **Matthew 26:36-37**

- **Jesus went with the disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,**
 - **“Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”**
 - **And he took Peter, James, and John with him.**
- **He was sorrowful and troubled.**

- Matthew uses two verbs and one adjective to describe Jesus' darkest night:

- The verb,
“sorrowful,”
appears 26 times in the NT.

- It is translated:

- “grieve (10),

- sorrowful (7),

- pain (4),

- distress (2).”

- It describes

- severe mental

- or emotional distress.

- The second verb,
“troubled,”
appears 3 times
in the NT only.
- It means “depressed,
overwhelmed with anxiety,
a heavy burden of mind.”

- **The adjective**
that Jesus uses
in His own word
on his psyche and feeling
is in **verse 38**,
- **“I feel very sad,
even to death.”**

- Have you ever felt the same way?
- Have you been in pain under severe mental and emotional distress?
 - Have you been overwhelmed with anxiety?

- You cannot think.
- It is as if 2,000 tons of wet cement were poured on you.
 - And you feel sad as if you are about to die.

- Verse 39,
- He fell on his face to the ground and prayed to the Father.
 - “If it be possible,
 - let this cup pass from me.”
- Luke gives us more details on his emotional and physical effect of his prayer.

- **Luke 22:44**

- “**And being in agony he prayed more earnestly;**
- **and his sweat become like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”**
- The prayer was so intense.
 - He was in agony,
- He was in great momentary anxiety and fear.

- The word, “earnestly,”
refers to emotional combat
- Going back and forth.
 - Back and forth.
 - For over an hour.
 - “My father.
If it is possible,
please take this cup
from me”.

- The prayer was so intense that it resulted in **a physical condition:**
- A pressure so great that **sweat dripped like drops of blood** falling down to the ground.

- The weather in Jerusalem at that time of the year averages between 50 to 60 F.
- Therefore the weather at Gethsemane at night was nice and cool.
- The humility was very low.
 - There is no way Jesus sweated like this naturally.

- When Jesus went to Gethsemane there were two things he sorely desired.
 - He wanted human fellowship and he wanted God's fellowship.

- God said in the beginning.
"It is not good that
the man should be alone,"
(Genesis 2:18.)
- Not only is this
true in marriage.
- It is also true in
times of trouble.

- It is not that Jesus expected Peter, James, John to do anything.
- Nor, did he expect any long conversations with them.
- He just needed to know they were there.

- How strange that men who a short a time ago were willing to die for him, could not stay awake for him one single hour.
- But none can blame them, for the excitement and the tension had drained their strength.

- Here, we also find **Jesus drained of strength.**
- Which we find surprising regarding the following.
- **Then said I, Lo, I come:
in the volume of the book
it is written of me,**
- **I delight to do thy will,
O my God:
(Hebrews 10:7, Psalms 40:7)**

- **Hebrews 5:7** (KJV)
- Who in the days **of his flesh**, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with **strong crying** and **tears** unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he **feared**;
- **A more accurate translation** is that he was **“heard by reason of his reverent submission”**.
 - **“Feared”** from a human perspective but tempered with **“reverent submission”**.

- “Feared” = G_2124
meaning
“dreaded”.
- If he had never felt that
divergence of will,
- That dreading to do
what he ought to do.
- He could never have sympathized with
me, because in my weakness.
- I am frequently unwilling
and so are you.

- Jesus had to compel himself to go on.
- And how did He do that?
- **Then said I, Lo, I come**
(in the volume of the book
it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.
(**Hebrews 10:7**)

- Do you always want to do the Father's will?

- Huh?

- Do you?

- Really?

- There is much of mystery here.
 - But yet I see tremendous help here for those of us who struggle with the will of God.

- Let us notice four things about Jesus in the garden.

- **# 1 THE GARDEN
WAS A PLACE
OF SUFFERING
WHERE
JESUS EXPERIENCED
GREAT DISTRESS...**

- He went to pray, accompanied only by Peter, James, and John
(**Matthew 26:36-37**)
 - Before He began praying, He was "deeply distressed"
(**Matthew 26:37**)
 - Mark records that He was "troubled and deeply distressed"
(**Mark 14:33**)
 - Later, Luke records that He was "in agony".
(**Luke 22:44**)

- He knew what was imminent, for He had told His disciples three times
(Matthew 16:21)
(Matthew 17:22-23)
(Matthew 20:17-19)

- There was not only physical pain to endure,
 - But also the burden of our sins
- Separation from His Father
as He bore our sins
on the cross!
(**Isaiah 53:6; Matthew 27:46**)

- **#2** **IN THE GARDEN**
JESUS
ENDURED
INTENSE SORROW...

- He described Himself as **"exceedingly sorrowful, even to death"**
(**Matthew 26:38**)
- The writer of Hebrews refers to His **"vehement cries and tears"**
(**Hebrews 5:7**)
 - He was also taking upon Himself our own **griefs** and **sorrows!**
(**Isaiah 53:4-5**)

- **Sin is a disease** that has afflicted the entire race.
- We **fail to comprehend** it until we see **the awful agony** our Lord experienced.

- And behold
the hours of darkness,
- And hear the
terrible orphaned cry,
- "My God, my God,
why hast Thou forsaken me?"
(**Matthew 27:46**)

- All this spells out for us **what we really are like.**
- Most think of ourselves as **decent people, good people.**
- We have not done, perhaps, **some of the terrible things that others have done.**

- But when we see in the cross of Jesus the depth of evil in our hearts
- We then begin to understand that sin is a disease that has infiltrated our whole lives.

- Man, who was created
 - In the image of God
- Who once wore the glory of God's perfect image,
 - Has become bruised and marred,
 - Sick and broken,
 - Conscience ruined,
 - Our will weakened.

- We know this to be true.
 - No wonder, then, this verse comes as the best of news:
 - He was wounded for our transgressions.
- bruised for our iniquities:
(**Isaiah 53:5**)
- As we certainly deserved to have endured that “bruising”.

- "**All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.**"
- How **true** that is of each of us!
 - Sheep are very **foolish** and **willful** creatures.
- They can **find a hole** in the fence and get out,
 - But they cannot find it **to get back in.**

• # 3 IN THE GARDEN
JESUS
ENCOUNTERED
INTENSE
LONELINESS...

- He wanted His closest disciples
to watch with Him
(**Matthew 26:37-38**)
- Those who had been with Him
from the beginning
(**Matthew 4:18-22**)
- Those who witnessed His miracles
(**Mark 5:37-43**)
 - Those who saw Him
transfigured on the mountain
(**Matthew 17:1-2**)

- Yet after each episode of praying,
He found them sleeping
(Matthew 26:40-41,43,45)
- When He desired fellowship for comfort,
there was none to be found
 - The Psalmist foretold
this would happen
(Psalms 69:20)
 - And yet Jesus
took them with Him.
 - **Why?**

- I am thinking that Jesus wanted to leave us an example of love and forgiveness.

- That when our dearest loved ones fail us we are to love and forgive.

- # 4 THE GARDEN OF..
 - GREAT DISTRESS,
 - INTENSE SORROW
 - AND LONELINESS,
- BECAME THE SOURCE OF AMAZING STRENGTH.

- **Not** that the cup
(of suffering)
was removed
- But that He would be
able to endure it

- When man first said **"My will, not Thine be done..."**
 - Man **lost** access to the Tree of Life.
 - But when Jesus said **"Not as I will, but as You will..."**
 - The path to the Tree of Life **opened up again.**

- Jesus asked the disciples to **“watch”**.

(Matthew 26:41)

- Jesus issued the warning **three times.**

(Matthew 26:38,40,41)

- In the NT,
it is used 22 times.

- They had missed the golden opportunity to minister to Jesus.
- It was the opportunity of eternity
- It happened only once.
- And the disciples missed it.

- What have we missed?
- Are we sleeping when we are commanded to watch?

- Jesus suffered the pain so that we might be healed.

- Have you received His healing?

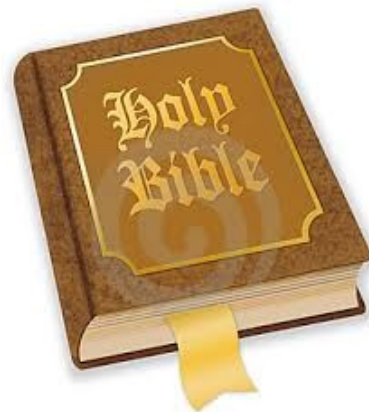
- Jesus obeyed the Father's will.

- Are you obeying that will?

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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