

Text: Mark 14:32-42

Title: "Your Will ... Not Mine / the Garden"

Introduction: Today we continue our series, "24" as we look at the last 24 hours of Jesus life here on earth in human form. As followers of Christ or those who are researching Christianity or seeking to know more about the faith; I believe that we have to know the "hows", "whens" and "whys" of those last hours ... hours that changed the world!

Let's Pray!

Before we go any further I invite you to take the insert out of your program. On one side you will see our Scripture for today ... taken from the Book of Mark (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), and on the other side you will see an outline with fill-in-the-blanks. Please take time to fill these in as the answers go up on the screen in front of you. Also, write down whatever else you think will help you in your faith journey or maybe help someone else in their faith journey. Then, we challenge you to take this home with you and put it somewhere where you will read it at least one time this week to remember what we learned about and why it's important to our faith. For those of you listening online or IPODing, you can also download the outline off of our website and follow along as well. We are glad you are with us out there in cyberworld!

So now it's Thursday night ... late. Jesus and his disciples have just finished the traditional Passover Feast as part of the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Last week we talked about how Jesus changed this traditional Jewish meal that celebrated the identity of the Jewish people as the people of God (freed from slavery in Egypt and promised their own land...), to a meal for followers of Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Jesus changed it from Passover to "Eucharist" (to thank God) or "Communion" (we are all in this together and all need the forgiveness offered through Jesus) or the "Last Supper".

So, somewhere after 11pm on Thursday night, Jesus and his disciples make their way out of the Upper Room and the house that we believe the disciples made their 'Jerusalem headquarters', they would have gone out of a southern gate of Jerusalem and then made their way up toward the Mount of Olives while singing a hymn (most likely from Psalm 118, which is part of the Passover ceremony).

I. Conversation in Judgment Valley (14:26-31)

- A. Jesus and his disciples walking up Kidron Valley between the walls of Jerusalem north toward the Temple and the gravestones of the deceased on his right... certainly Jesus remembered in Joel 3 (Valley of Jehoshaphat) that it said that this would be the place of the Judgment (Jesus would be back here someday).
- B. Here Jesus told his disciples again that they would/should scatter as sheep who have lost their shepherd (from Zechariah 13).
- C. Peter says that would never happen and the other disciples agree.
- D. Remember that even though Jesus knew how his closest friends were going to respond (betray, deny, abandon), he told them he would meet them in Galilee later (they had to be reminded by an angel to go there... they didn't listen very well!).

1. Jesus knows that Judas has already agreed to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and that Judas will soon bring a number of men to arrest Jesus.
 2. Jesus knows that his closest friends are about to fall asleep and not pay attention when He needs them most.
 3. Jesus knows that soon all of his disciples will leave him out of fear for their own lives.
 4. BUT, Jesus is already telling them where they will meet for their chance to redeem themselves ... Galilee!
 5. Jesus tells them here to either scatter like sheep ... or you will scatter like sheep ... BUT, I will be waiting for you in Galilee later and we will get things straightened out!
- E. I need that. Because there are times that I abandon Jesus when I get scared. When I get scared I start to put ME first and not Jesus. When I get scared I sometimes quit thinking about what God would want me to do. Instead, I think about how I can protect MYSELF.
- F. Peter and the other disciples claim that they will never abandon Jesus... have you ever done that?!?

II. The Garden of the Olive Press (14:32-42)

- A. Jesus arrived at the Mount of Olives and went to an area called The Garden of Gethsemane (meaning 'olive press').
1. We understand that Jesus has been here many times before to pray, etc.
 2. Judas would know where to find Jesus.
- B. Today, you can see trees there that are believed to be over 3,000 years old (PICTURE) ... would have been there when Jesus walked that hill...
- C. Next to these trees The Church of All Nations (Picture of outside) commemorates that Thursday Night when Jesus cried out to His Father and asked if there was any other way with stars on the ceiling and the rock.
1. The Church is set up to help the visitor think about what that night meant ... it's kept dark at all times and there are stars painted on the ceiling so that it's always nighttime.
 2. It's been believed since the 3rd Century that this is the rock (picture) that Jesus prayed on or near on that night.
 3. If you turn back toward the front door of the Church, you find that you are facing straight toward the Jerusalem city walls and the Temple.
- D. This garden is straight across the valley from the Temple.
1. This would be a place where Jesus could pray from outside the city walls and the Temple where both are in plain sight.
 2. Jesus would have viewed the city and the Temple from this vantage point many times.

- E. Again, Jesus would have stopped in this place many times to pray for the ministry that he was carrying out, the city of Jerusalem and over the Temple that represented His Father. This was on his way to and from Bethany.
- F. So, late that Thursday night (maybe around midnight), Jesus stopped there once again to pray...

III. **Stay Here and Keep Watch**

- A. Jesus took his three closest friends with Him and left the other 8 behind to watch while He prayed. Peter, James and John were the ones who saw Jesus' anguish ... "he became deeply troubled and distressed." His soul crushed to the point of death. "Stay here and keep watch with me."
 - 1. You know, there are times when we need our buddies. Jesus didn't really ask for advice from them, but just needed them to be around.
 - 2. Jesus let them know what he was going through emotionally, and hinted at what was coming physically and just wanted those close three to be there for Him.
- B. In these moments, Jesus went in prayer to His Father and asked if there was any other way to accomplish their mission with humanity. Jesus knew that as a fully human being, what he was about to go through would not only be the emotional pain he was now experiencing, but the physical pain that was yet to come.
- C. Three times Jesus went back and found his disciples sleeping ... big meal, late at night; certainly understandable! But, if they saw how Jesus was disturbed, wouldn't they be extra alert!?
- D. Now, before we get too judgmental of the disciples, I wonder what it is in our world that Jesus is deeply disturbed about—and we know about it—and you and I have fallen asleep when we should be watching and praying?
 - 1. What is it that Jesus has asked us to do to 'be there' for Him, and we've essentially, fallen asleep ... we can't even keep watch for one hour.
 - 2. As we look around the culture and our world, what do you suppose makes Jesus "deeply troubled and distressed"? Are you watching and praying or just allowing things to happen while you sit there munching Sominex?
 - 3. Will we stand for Jesus in this world, or sleep through our opportunities?

IV. **Why Deeply Troubled?**

- A. Was Jesus deeply troubled and his soul crushed with grief because He didn't trust God? Was Jesus in anguish because He was to be separated from His Father because of the sin? Maybe ... Maybe not.

1. Can you imagine knowing that in the next few hours you were going to be arrested, tried in an illegal court, found guilty of nothing and yet found 'guilty', sent before the Roman Governor who would try to set you free and the people—your people that you have lived for—would call for your death, beaten within an inch of your life, forced to carry a 100lb. crossbeam across town, nailed to a cross, mocked, ridiculed, suffer and die?
 2. Would you have any anguish or feel like your soul was being crushed?
- B. If the sin that Jesus had to take on for the world (time warp thing ... past, present and future...) was going to prevent him from being in the presence of God, can you imagine? We know that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have been in communion with each other since the beginning of time. This would be Jesus' first time separated from His Father!
- C. What else might have caused Jesus so much turmoil? One suggestion is that Jesus was again facing temptation like He did at the beginning of His ministry out in the wilderness...
1. Remember in the wilderness, Jesus was tempted three times? Note that he went back to His disciples three times...
 2. Was Jesus being tempted to try to live instead of die on that cross?
 3. "Only 33 years old ... imagine what you could do if you kept doing ministry?"
 4. "Do you honestly think that those sleeping disciples are ready to take over where you left off, Jesus?" "They cannot even stay awake for one hour; much less spread the word about You around the world."

V. **I Want Your Will to Be Done**

- A. And yet, Jesus knew why He came to earth and it was all for this one day. Even though I'm certainly not looking forward to this Father, **YOUR WILL BE DONE!**
- B. I wonder how many times we say, "My will be done?" Or, I wonder how many times we back off of God's will, because we perceive that it's going to be too difficult? I wonder when we get caught up in the temptation to find an easier way to do what needs to be done?
1. Think about it. When have you fallen to the temptation of, "there must be an easier way" or "someone else will do it if I don't"?
 2. When have you decided that even though you have a good idea what the right thing to do is, you have put it off hoping that a better option comes along that's in your best interest.
 3. Listen, the "Right Thing" is very seldom the "Easy Thing".

4. You and I are called to change the world we live in ... if that was easy, everyone would be doing it!
- C. Jesus shared with God how He felt, but finished each prayer with, "You know, that's my idea, but let's do it your way, God!"
- D. God can handle your emotions and pain and questioning, but it's up to us to finally decide that God's way is better than ours...
- E. I remember well the phone call when my Dad told me that my Mom had brain cancer. I yelled at God for a good 15-30 minutes because it wasn't "Fair". It took my Mom telling me that God's way was still better than our way for me to accept what was happening.
- F. A good phrase for each of us to learn = "blah, blah, blah, but YOUR WILL BE DONE!"

VI. With a Kiss (14:43-52)

- A. Then, Judas came into the garden leading a mob of Temple guards to arrest Jesus.
- B. "Why did you bring men armed with clubs and swords? I was in the Temple every day..."
 1. Jesus knew why ... he knew that if they had tried to arrest Jesus earlier in the week in the daylight in public, they had two (2) problems. One, they didn't have any just cause to arrest Jesus—he had not done anything worthy of arrest; and, two, the people who were following Jesus would have caused a riot!
 2. Why was Jesus arrested at night, outside the city walls? It had to be in secret, as was the trial that Jesus was about to go through. Why? There was no precedent set for either!
- C. But now, the time had come and the disciples ran away as Jesus predicted (or ordered)... If Peter would have only listened to Jesus...
- D. Here's what I want us all to hear this morning. We serve a Lord who knows us; our motives, our desires, our shortcomings, our sins, etc. and still says, "I love you so much that I'll die for you on a cross so that you can be forgiven for eternity and in a right relationship with Almighty God. Oh, and even though you abandoned me when I needed you the most, I'll meet you in Galilee and we'll get that straightened out."
- E. I wonder if we need to pass on that kind of unconditional love to someone in our lives today. Is there someone you need to meet in Galilee and get things right?!?

Let's Pray!