

Why the timing of agony in the garden?

I lay down my life for the sheep. ... 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

John 10:15,18

Jesus says It's voluntary.

For the first time he's beginning to actually experience that this horrific death will leave him apart from His father's comfort and support. He even talks to the Father about it.

“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. vs. 39

“My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” vs. 42

Jesus looked into the belly of the beast, the wrath of God against all wickedness and sin, and there saw his own fate to bear the weight of it, to be cut off, to be alone apart from the his Father and the Spirit and to walk in the actual experience of God's wrath, without God's presence.

Do you realize that every other person in history has always been told by God, “Obey me and I'll be with you; obey me and you will live”? Only Jesus is told, “Obey me and you will be destroyed. Obey me and you will be abandoned,” and he still obeyed.

Four powerful applications:

Model of integrity-

Model of prayer-

Model of forgiveness-

Model of enduring suffering-



Sierra Community Church

Dan Wilvers Part 2

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How Christ's Temptation Helps You

Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter.⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.⁴⁶ Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

Why was Jesus in such agony?

He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Matthew 26:38

And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

Luke 22:44

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. ... "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it- ...once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

vs. 39,42,44

What is the cup?

In the Old Testament Scriptures, *the* cup meant God's divine wrath on all wrongdoing. This was the punishment of God coming down. That's what Jesus is facing here in the garden.

When you read the Bible and it talks a great deal about God's punishing of sin, one of the main themes is: "They will be shut out from the presence of the Lord and the majesty of his power."

2 Thessalonians 1:9

Why did Jesus go to the Garden of Gethsemane? To pray.

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:6-8

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" John 11:41-43

For eternity the Father, Son, and Spirit have been in perfect community, and even when Christ came to earth he stayed connected through prayer. (I know you always hear me)

He comes into the garden stressed and begins to pray, and there is no connection.

Jonathan Edwards, an eighteenth-century American Christian minister: "*The agony was caused by a vivid, full, and immediate view of the wrath of God. God the Father, as it were, set the cup down before him, which was vastly more terrible than Nebuchadnezzar's furnace. He now had a near view of that furnace into which he was about to be cast. He stood and viewed the raging flames and the glowing of its heat, that he might know where he was going and what he was about to suffer. He felt what Ezekiel said, 'You shall drink the cup of ruin and desolation and tear your breasts,' and what Isaiah said, 'He will drink the cup of his fury and stagger.'*"

Do you see what he's doing for us?

Unless you understand a God of wrath, a God who has a cup for evil, you'll never understand a God of love, a God of love who was willing to come and drink it himself.

If you don't understand the infinity and greatness of God's anger at sin, you'll never understand the infinity and greatness of a God who's willing to absorb that punishment himself.

Here's a question Jonathan Edwards basically asked:

"If just the taste and glimpse of these sufferings in the garden were enough to throw the eternal Son of God into shock and to nearly kill him in the anticipation of them, what was the actual full experience of those sufferings on the cross really like?"