

Sierra's Weekly Message Action Plan



Sierra's Weekly Action Plan:

Use the Message Action Plan below to help put the things you learned this weekend into practice. If you missed last weekend's message, [Click Here](#) to listen to it online.

“How Christ’s Temptation Helps You”

The Road to the Resurrection

Dan Wilvers-March 13th, 2106

1. Jesus doesn’t exaggerate.

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

Something dramatic and horrible has overtaken Jesus, he feels like he’s going to die.

2. The “Cup” Jesus speaks to in prayer, is the divine wrath of God poured out against all sin and wickedness on the cross of Christ.

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.” Matthew 26:39

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.’ ”*

Edwards surmises that Jesus is getting a taste of the spiritual abandonment and suffering of taking sin upon himself before he's gone to the cross.

Here's a question Jonathan Edwards basically asks in his sermon Christ's Agony:

"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?"

3. Jesus faced all this voluntarily.

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

"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, **may your will be done.**" Matthew 26: 42

Despite the horror Jesus felt, he committed himself to do His Father's will, but he made that decision fully aware of what was coming on the cross, and he went anyway.

Why? There is only one answer.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

(Christ) appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. **27** Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, **28** so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Hebrews 9:27,28

Jesus' example in the garden helps us to see and respond as well.

- He was the same person throughout his life, he had a mission he didn't waver from, his integrity was impeccable.

- His prayer was open and honest yet it was also entirely dependent upon the Father's will not what his faith desired.

- In his hour of greatest need his disciples let him down yet he demonstrates a forgiving attitude towards them when he says, "The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

· In so much that Jesus faced the ultimate cup of suffering, we can learn to endure the “little cup” of hardships and suffering as his followers.

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.

Dan Wilvers