

Mark(67) 14:32-42

1. Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus revealed the ultimate reality of salvation through his death at the Last Supper he shared with his disciples. He saves his people from all sins and calls them to live with Him in heaven for eternity, eating and drinking at the same table and sharing the perfect fellowship of love. Jesus testified to this in advance through the Last Passover Supper, and looking forward to the joys of heaven, Jesus went to the suffering of the cross to give up his life without sparing it. Hebrews 12 speaks about our Jesus who died on the cross.

Hebrews 12:1-2, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Jesus willingly bore our sins, suffered on the cross, and persevered until death to attain the glory of heaven in our places. He encourages us to run the race of faith with endurance, looking forward to the joy of heaven where we will live in perfect loving fellowship with Him. We must remember the great love revealed in the path of suffering on the cross that Jesus took. He did not go to the cross for the good and righteous people who love and obey him. In Mark 14:27, Jesus said to his disciples that they would all abandon him, and in 14:50, all of the disciples did abandon Jesus and run away. However, Jesus did not abandon them, but loved them until the end, bearing their sins and going to the cross. God loves us, hopeless sinners who lived as enemies of God, and gave His only Son to atone for our sins.

The great love of Jesus, revealed on the cross, is also seen in the Garden of Gethsemane in today's text. In this garden, Jesus reveals that the death on the cross he received for our sins was a pain and sorrow so great that we could not even fathom it. Jesus clearly said that he endured the cross while looking forward to the joy of heaven where He would be with us but this does not mean that Jesus lightly endured the suffering of the cross because he was God. For Jesus, the crucifixion was a suffering that brought pain and sorrow beyond what we can imagine. However, today's text reveals Jesus' great love to take us to heaven so that we can live with Him for eternity until He undergoes such suffering. First, he says this in verses 32-34:

Mark 14:32-34, "And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. 34 And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."

After the last supper with his disciples, Jesus went to a place called Gethsemane and prayed to God before he was arrested and crucified. It is said that Jesus was greatly distressed and troubled. This is how Jesus felt before the crucifixion. Jesus also honestly shared his heart with his disciples. Verse 34 says, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death." Jesus is not calm or courageous before the suffering he is about to undergo. The Greek word used in verse 33 for "he was greatly distressed" means "to be gripped by fear." This means that Jesus was greatly fearful and troubled. Even for Jesus, the Son of God, death on the cross brought agony, fear, suffering, and sadness beyond our imagination, so much so that Jesus even expressed that he was almost dead. We need to think deeply about this.

When we look at great men of history and martyrs we know, we realize that they did not suffer like Jesus did before his death. Of course, they must have been afraid of death, but many of them faced it courageously. General Lee, whom we all know well in Korean history, died in a composed manner, instructing his soldiers not to let the enemies know about his death. Some died while bravely fighting to save their country on the battlefield, some willingly gave up their lives to save those they loved, and some risked their lives to save people they didn't even know. Many martyrs bravely died without begging for their lives, maintaining their faith in Jesus until the end. Stephen in Acts 7, whom we know well, was not afraid of death but preached the gospel until the end with a face shining like an angel.

In some ways, all of them faced death more boldly and gracefully than Jesus did. However, Jesus did not appear this way before his death on the cross. At first, one might think: since He is the Son of God, shouldn't He show us how to face death more boldly and gracefully than other people? If He does show that, wouldn't people be more likely to believe in Him? However, Jesus showed himself at his weakest and most fearful before death. Jesus was extremely saddened, worried, and even overwhelmed by fear before His death on the cross. He even prayed earnestly for God to take this cup from Him, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground. How do we explain this? This is because Jesus knew the true reality of death, that we sinners must pay for our sins, and as the holy God without a single sin, he had to personally bear our sins and experience the miserable reality of judgment. Therefore, he was extremely distressed and troubled. Even for Jesus, it was too great a pain to bear.

Jesus came as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He bore the sins of all God's people, receiving the punishment for our sins and bearing the judgment of God's infinite wrath that should be poured out on us. He went to the cross to suffer the death we deserve. Jesus knew the true reality of this death brought about by sin. The reality of physical pain and physical death was miserable and painful, but it was extremely small compared to the infinite judgment of God's wrath and the punishment of eternal abandonment in hell. On the day Jesus was arrested and died, he began to experience the true reality of the death he would receive on the cross, starting from the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus' heart was so troubled that he almost died, and he wrestled with God to the point that his sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

Of course, even before that, Jesus spoke about his death and actively went on a path of suffering to give himself up as a ransom for us sinners. He boldly entered Jerusalem and at the last supper with his disciples, he shared his flesh and blood and taught the Gospel of His cross. Although Jesus said that He would achieve our salvation until He gave up all of His blood, on the night Jesus was crucified and died, He began to experience the reality of the pain He would soon experience on the cross. The physical pain had not yet begun, but the pain of being abandoned and cut off from God the Father, with whom He had shared loving fellowship in perfect unity since eternity, and the judgment of incomparably terrible wrath, was something Jesus had never experienced. As he realized that a dark time of pain and sorrow was coming, he prayed, letting God know his honest feelings and heart.

2. Jesus' prayer

Mark 14:35-36, "And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Abba Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Isn't it surprising that Jesus made this request? Does this mean that he will not go to the cross now? Does this mean that He will not obey the will of the Father? Although Jesus prayed like this, he did not intend to change God's will. He goes on to confess, "Not my will, but yours be done," and He accepts the Father's will as his own and obeys it. Jesus is letting God know and letting us know that the pain, sorrow, agony, and fear of suffering on the cross are so great. It shows us how miserable the reality of death brought by sin is.

The pain of Jesus on the cross was indescribable because of his great love for God, which made the experience of being abandoned by God equally intense. This raises the question: Was Jesus the only one who experienced this pain? Wouldn't God the Father have suffered the same? It is important to consider the immense sorrow and pain that God the Father must have felt when he had to turn away from his beloved Son, with whom he had shared an eternal bond of love, in order to bring judgment upon him with infinite wrath. We must remember the depth of pain and sorrow that God endured because of our sins. Despite the great pain of being abandoned, Jesus ultimately obeyed and desired God's will to be done. He accepted this abandonment out of love for God. It is through his love for us that Jesus saves us, even to the point of enduring such pain and sorrow.

Jesus knew very well that only he could achieve our salvation. He knew that only He could bear the judgment of eternal and infinite wrath and that only He could pay the full price. There was no other way. This is why God the Son became a man to achieve this salvation in our place and on our behalf. And as God, who possesses the same human nature as us, He endures that immeasurable pain and goes to the cross. If you look at Jesus' request in today's text, he is not asking to abandon the mission. He is not saying that He will obey even though He does not want to. He does not doubt the Father's will but ultimately obeys the Father's will as his own. He expressed his feelings but ultimately obeyed God's will out of love for us, going to the cross to demonstrate that love.

Dear saints, as we reflect on the immense pain and sorrow that Jesus experienced on the cross, we can truly grasp the depth of his love for us. The significance of Jesus' plea for the cup to be taken from him is profound. In the Old Testament, the "cup" symbolizes God's wrath and the judgement of His justice upon sin and injustice. This gives us a deeper understanding of God's love for us. Let us look at what Jeremiah says.

Jeremiah 25:15, 32-33, "Thus the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.... 32 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: Behold, disaster is going forth from nation to nation, and a great tempest is stirring from the farthest parts of the earth! 33 "And those pierced by the Lord on that day shall extend from one end of the earth to the other. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall be dung on the surface of the ground."

In the Book of Jeremiah, it is prophesied that the nations who have turned away from God will face His wrath. This judgment will also come upon the sinful world in the last days. Instead of pouring out His wrath on sinners, God sent His Son to take on this judgment. Jesus took on the cup of wrath on

behalf of humanity, experiencing suffering and separation from God. This culminated in His death on the cross, representing the reality of our sin and the judgment it deserves.

Regardless of how impressive the deaths of great individuals may be, and no matter how bravely people in the world face death, understanding the true nature of a sinner's death can prevent one from being so composed or courageous. Believers, knowing that Jesus took their place in death, were able to maintain their faith boldly until their own deaths. You may prefer a God of love and not one of wrath, but without acknowledging the God of wrath, which is the God of justice, you cannot fully understand the God of love. Those who recognize God's great wrath towards sinners can also recognize God's great love towards sinners. This is the message of the cross. Rev. Jonathan Edwards, a well-known figure, commented on Jesus' anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane:

"The agony was caused by a vivid, bright, full, immediate view of the wrath of God. The Father, as it were, set the cup down before him... he now had a near view of that furnace into which he was about to be cast. He stood and viewed its raging flames and the glowing of its heat so that he might know where he was going and what he was about to suffer. Christ was going to be cast into a dreadful furnace of wrath, and it was not proper that he should plunge himself into it blindfold, as not knowing how dreadful the furnace was. Therefore, that he might not do so, God first brought him and set him at the mouth of the furnace, that he might look in, and stand and view its fierce and raging flames, and might see where he was going, and might voluntarily enter into it and bear it for sinners, as knowing what it was. This view Christ had in his agony... So his love for sinners was the most wonderful, as also his obedience to God. If just the taste and glimpse of these sufferings 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?"

Dear saints, have you ever wondered about the extent of Jesus's love for us? Despite the eternal and infinite wrath of God that should rightfully be poured out on us sinners, the love of Jesus is powerful enough to overcome it. Through the cross of Jesus, we can truly understand the depth, height, breadth, and length of His immeasurable love. This love completely satisfies God's justice and saves us from sin, death, and the judgment of infinite wrath. Today's passage at the Garden of Gethsemane is a great opportunity to explore the love of Christ. It's this incredible love that forms the essence of the gospel, and it's through the suffering of Jesus on the cross that we find our salvation.

Because Jesus received the judgment of God's infinite wrath that we deserved, we received the infinite love of God. Jesus changed places with us. Jesus went to the place of judgment in hell instead of us and made us go to the place of heavenly glory. Because Jesus became the object of God's infinite wrath on our behalf, we became sons of God's infinite love. If you do not know God's wrath toward sinners, you cannot know God's love for sinners. Dear believers, be thankful to Jesus for saving us from sin and death, and ask Him to help you know His love more. Ask that you be filled with that love more than anything else. He will be able to do more than we ask for and abundantly.

Ephesians 3:18-20, "You may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."