

GETHSEMANE!

Luke 22:44 *"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."*

Today
Tonight

we will be looking at just a few matters concerning Gethsemane.

Notice:

I. THE SAVIOUR'S UNUTTERABLE WOE

John 12:27 *"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour."*

Matt says: 26:37 *"... and began to be sorrowful and very heavy."*

Matt 26:38 *"Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me."*

Meaning that he was encompassed, encircled, overwhelmed with grief.

Luke uses the term *'being in an agony'*

Here in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus stands before us in unutterable WOE! WHY? What is happening here that we cannot see? I can not enter in with Him but I believe that we can go to the Scriptures and see a few CAUSES of his WOE!

Horror arose in the SOUL of the Lord partly because of:

1) Him FULLY comprehending the meaning of SIN. Do you remember the first time God showed YOU the awfulness of sin?
Our Lord saw SIN in its natural BLACKNESS

Another cause of His grief was:

2) Christ now more fully understood His official position with regard to sin!

He was now MADE SIN! He Who knew no sin - MADE SIN for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

NOW He stood as the SIN-BEARER.
Standing in the place of a Sinner!
RECEIVING what a Sinner should!
Being treated as a sinful man - in our place!

Also - during this time:

3) Jesus had a very clear view of all the shame and suffering of His crucifixion.

He foresaw the traitor-disciple, the seizure of the officers, the mock-trials, Pilate, Herod, the scourging and buffeting, the crown of thorns, the shame, the spitting, then the crucifixion itself!

ALL this rose up in His mind and caused Him unutterable Woe!

But possibly the more bitter fact was that:

4) His Father began to withdraw his presence from Him!

The shadow of all that was about to happen to Him was beginning to fall upon Him in that cold midnight amidst the olives of Gethsemane!

The BEST that He had was about to be removed from Him and that was his Father's Presence!

In my personal consideration I believe that the worse thing that happened unto my Lord that night was:

5) The assault and temptations of Satan!

Greater than the 40 days in the wilderness!
This was Satan's LAST opportunity!

Jesus said, "*THIS is YOUR hour and the power of darkness*".

He was saying to Satan - Go ahead 'big boy' show me what you got! And Satan did!!

This was the last hand-to-hand combat with Satan, with all the hosts of hell.

Before we go to the next point may I say the Bible says,

Heb 4:15-16 "*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*"

We have seen some of the things that may have caused our Lord to be under such heaviness. Now lets look int the Scriptures and see another point to contemplate, and that is:

II. THE TEMPTATION OF OUR LORD.

How did Satan tempt our Lord? What did Satan do to cause our Lord to grieve and agonize to the point that He sweat blood?

We do not know all that Satan did but I believe that we can surmise a few things from the wording that is before us.

May I say first that no matter what Satan put before our Lord - He remained sinless! Spotless! Without Sin!! NO submission ever!

I think one of the temptations might have been:

1) A temptation to leave the work unfinished! Matt 26:39 "*... if it be possible, let this cup pass from me*"

'Son of God', the tempter said, 'Are YOU to bear sin for man? Your best friends SLEEP when you asked them to watch and Judas, he is about to betray You - are you sure?'

What are YOU dying for? A company of no good mortals?

Scriptures also imply that our Lord was assailed by

2) The fear that His strength would not be sufficient!

The angel that came and strengthened Him was brought on by a sense of weakness!

We must remember - The temptations of Satan was not directed against the Godhead, but against the manhood of Christ!

The temptation was so awful that His sweat became great drops of blood!

Possibly, also, the temptation may have risen from a suggestion:

3) That He was utterly FORSAKEN!

Satan may have said, 'Where are your Friends? Where is God? Who will help you Now? Son of Mary, where is everybody? Where are ALL those you healed - saved and delivered?

GO LOOK AND SEE WHERE YOUR MIGHTY THREE ARE!

It may have been upon this temptation that the angel came and strengthened Him!

These were His temptations - He admonishes His disciples,
"Pray that YE enter not into temptations."

Now lets look at:

III. THE BLOODY SWEAT!

It was not 'like' blood - it was blood!

Folks, Satan was pressing upon our Lord with everything he had!!

Do you see how intense the battle must have been?

The Bible says in Heb 12:4 *"Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin."* JESUS DID!!

Jesus is saying, RESIST unto blood if you have to, but don't sin!

Then I want us to notice:

IV. THE SAVIOUR'S PRAYER!

1) It was a lonely prayer!

He withdrew from the eight with three and then withdrew a stones throw from them!

PRIVACY was the key here!

2) It was a humble prayer!

He fell upon His face! God falling prostrate!!

3) It was a personal prayer!

'O my Father' - He plead as a Child!!

4) It was a perserving prayer!

He stayed until He got and answer!

5) It was an earnest prayer!

He was 'serious'

6) It was a prayer of resignation!

"Nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Note now:

V. THE SAVIOUR'S PREVALENCE!

Someone may say, "Did He prevail?"

Beloved, would we have any hope in Heaven if He did not prevail upon the earth?

How do I know He prevailed?

1) His mind was suddenly rendered calm!

Do you see Him there in the Garden as He prays, goes checks His disciples, prays, checks them again, Sweats blood, and then See Him standing up saying to His disciples - LET'S GO! Yea - He prevailed!!!

Next His prayer was heard in that:

2) An angel came and strengthened Him!

Maybe the angel sketched Him a picture of the resurrection, maybe He showed Him the angels welcoming Him back into Heaven, maybe he told Him about His Homecoming with His Father in Heaven - Maybe, maybe, he showed him ME!

3) He had victory over Satan!

He went on to Calvary!

I personally believe the battle with Satan was won in the Garden of Gethsemane!! Yes, Much was still ahead, but the battle with Satan was won there upon His face in Gethsemane!

Before We go - I just want to mention: **The cup of Gethsemane!**

Matt 26:39 *"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou [wilt]."*

This is a whole other message so I just want to give the outline concerning the CUP OF GETHSEMANE!

WHAT WAS THE CUP?

WHAT WAS IN THE CUP?

WHY DID IT BOTHER JESUS?

I. THE CUP WAS A SYMBOL OF THE SUFFERINGS THAT AWAITED CHRIST!

II. THE CUP WAS FILLED WITH THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD!

III. THE CUP WAS FULL OF WRATH - FROM GOD!

To PAY OUR SIN DEBT - Christ had to drink the dregs of the cup to receive ALL that we should have received!