

The Agony of Jesus Before the Cross

Mark 14:32-42

- I. Jesus is dismayed about the Father abandoning Him, but He is victorious over His will (14:32-36)
- A. Jesus struggled in His will – and suffered distress (32-34).
1. Jesus wanted the support of Peter, James & John (32-33).
 - Longing for human support is normal, but we are not promised those longings will always be met.
 2. Jesus struggled deeply as He thought about the cross (34).
 - Fear of physical agony didn't overwhelm Jesus; thinking of sin-bearing and abandonment by the Father did.
- B. Jesus submitted His will – and chose the cross (35-36).
1. Emotionally, Jesus wanted to avoid the Father's will (35; John 12:27, 28).
 2. Volitionally, Jesus submitted to the Father's will (36).
- Principles
- To struggle in our will is not sin; to refuse God's will is.
 - We cannot avoid our emotions, but we do not need to be controlled by them.
 - When God seems distant, we may be closest to His will.
 - Trials are opportunity for intimacy with God (*Abba Father*).
 - We must submit to God's will especially in time of trial.
- II. Jesus is dismayed that the disciples fail Him, as they lose the battle of their will (14:37-42).
- A. Strike One – Disciples unable to stay awake (37-38)
- B. Strike Two – Disciples still unable to stay awake (39-40)
- C. Strike Three – Disciples fail once more – as Jesus knows it's time for His betrayal by Judas (41-42).
- Principles
- Support – When we don't have human support, we are assured of God's (Luke 22:43; Hebrews 13:5).
 - God's considerate grace – Jesus understands and helps our weaknesses (*spirit willing/flesh weak* – Heb. 4:15-16).
 - Spiritual Inertia/Laziness – It's always easier to do nothing, than to do something that is obedient to God.
 - Spiritual Indifference/Selfishness – It's always easier to care about our own needs than someone else's.