***The Cross and the Cup* Matthew 26:36-46 (3/20/16)**

**Context:** The Passover meal blends the reality of God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the wonder of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in solemn remembrance.

**1. Gethsemane**

A. The Press: Gethsemane means “oil press” and it was here that Christ was crushed by our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the weight of our sin.

B. The Warning: He urges his disciples to be vigilant and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so they would not give in to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and abandon their faith.

C. The Terror: Christ had calmly faced storms, demons, and authorities. But this moment \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him.

**2. The Fifth Cup**

A. Christ’s Prayer: Jesus humbly asks his Father to let this cup pass if at all possible but he rests in God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

B. The Cup of God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: The cup of God’s judgment is given to those who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_against God. It is poured out on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as evidence of God’s goodness and holiness.

* God’s fierce anger is evidence of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, judging the sin that destroys by paying the ransom himself.

C. Christ’s Agony: As Jesus approaches the Father, for the first time he glimpses God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather than his love, his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather than his acceptance.

D. It is Finished: There was \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and therefore Christ drank the cup of God’s judgment so we didn’t have to. He was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so that we could be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* If we refuse to trust in Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ then the cup of God’s wrath is still ours to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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C. The Terror: Christ had calmly faced storms, demons, and authorities. But this moment \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him.

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A. Christ’s Prayer: Jesus humbly asks his Father to let this cup pass if at all possible but he rests in God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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D. It is Finished: There was \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and therefore Christ drank the cup of God’s judgment so we didn’t have to. He was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so that we could be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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**Discussion Questions:**

* Read the promise of God to Israel in Exodus 6:6-7. How is the exodus similar and different from what Christ accomplishes on the cross? What is the connection between the Passover and the Lord’s supper? How are they distinct?
* How does Christ’s experience in Gethsemane parallel the process of making olive oil? How does this reflect the promise of Isaiah 53:4-5?
* Why does Jesus tell the disciples to keep watch? What danger were they to be watchful for? How do verses 40-41 help us understand Christ’s meaning? When we face great pressure or persecution, what are some temptations that we face?
* What was it about this moment in Gethsemane that made Christ tremble and cry out in prayer? How was this sitaution different than when he dealt with demons, disease, and authorities?
* What is the “cup” that Jesus is referring to? (Ps 75:6-10, Is 51:17, Jer 25:15-20, and Rev 14:9-11). Why is God so fiercly angry? How does this fit with God being a God of love and grace?
* What would it mean for Christ physically and spiritually to drink the cup of judgment that we deserved? What do you observe about Christ’s pattern of prayer when he was distressed and full of fear? How does this guide us when our strong desire is to be delivered from suffering?
* How does this story show us that there was no other way we could be saved? Why couldn’t God just forgive our sins without anyone having to drink the cup? How does Christ’s experience on the cross give us a glimpse of what it is like to experience God’s judgment?
* Why is it that many people refuse to accept Christ’s provision? Is it because they don’t think they have sinned or they don’t think there will be judgment?

**Next Week: Resurrection Sunday**

**Discussion Questions:**

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**Next Week: Resurrection Sunday**

***Let this Cup Pass* Matthew 26:36-46 (3/20/16)**

**Context:** The Passover meal blends the reality of God’s judgment and the wonder of his grace in solemn remembrance.

**1. Gethsemane**

A. The Press: Gethsemane means “oil press” here Christ was crushed by our guilt and pressed by the weight of our sin.

B. The Warning: He urges his disciples to be vigilant and prayerful so they would not give in to temptation and abandon their faith.

C. The Terror: Christ had calmly faced storms, demons, and authorities. But this moment stuns and terrifies him.

**2. The Fifth Cup**

A. Christ’s Prayer: Jesus humbly asks his Father to let this cup pass if at all possible but rests in God’s perfect will.

B. The Cup of God’s Fury: The cup of God’s judgment is given to those who rebel against God. It is poured out on injustice as evidence of God’s goodness and holiness.

* God’s fierce anger is evidence of his deep love, judging the sin that destroys by paying the ransom himself.

C. Christ’s Agony: As Jesus approaches the Father ,for the first time he glimpses God’s judgment rather than his love, his punishment rather than his acceptance.

D. It is Finished: There was no other way and therefore Christ drank the cup of God’s judgment so we didn’t have to. He was forsaken so that we could be accepted.

* If we refuse to trust in Christ’s provision then the cup of God’s wrath is still ours to drink.