

Series: Come Boldly to the Throne

THE MOST DIFFICULT PRAYER TO PRAY

MATTHEW 26:36-46

Text: Matthew 26:42

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⁴² *He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, **thy will be done.***

Introduction:

When we consider the prayer in the Garden prayed by the Lord we see a perfect example of praying during a difficult time.

There are times in our lives that certainly are difficult and it's in times like these that we need to pray.

It's in the midst of this garden while experiencing a difficult time that the Lord prays a prayer that so often for us is difficult to pray.

The Lord prayed – “Thy will be done.”

Someone once said that there are two kinds of people:

Those who say to God, “Thy will be done” and those to whom God must say, “Have it your way.”

Notice as we consider this most difficult prayer to pray.

1. TO PRAY THIS PRAYER DEMANDS A SURRENDER IN THE SOUL (VS. 38)

Matthew 26:38

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

We can see the depth of our Lord’s commitment.

This prayer was in preparation for the cross

Note:

A. The Grief He Bore

Mark 14:33-34

³³ And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; ³⁴ And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

The words sore amazed means to astonish utterly; affright.

The word heavy means to be in distress or full of heaviness.

Note Luke's account:

Luke 22:44

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.

Note not only the Grief He Bore but also:

B. The Grief He Shared

Mark 14:34

³⁴ And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

The Lord did not hide His feelings of grief and agony from His three closest friends. He confessed, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death...".

The Lord said, "he was surrounded with sorrow, and it pressed him so hard, and close, on every side, that he was just ready to die with it"

In Gethsemane we see the Saviour praying a prayer that demands a surrender of soul, note also:

2. TO PRAY THIS PRAYER DEMANDS SURRENDER (VS. 39)

Matthew 26:39

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.***

Not He prayed “not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

In this verse we see the sinless Son of God facing and accepting the torturous, cruel, savage suffering and death that is awaiting Him.

“Christ, as Man, pleaded, that, if it were possible, his sufferings might pass from him. As Mediator, he submitted to the will of God, saying, Nevertheless, not what I will, but what thou wilt; I bid it welcome.”

Christ’s surrender to do God’s perfect will in the Garden of Gethsemane was critical.

The truth is we often have stubborn wills.

We are born with these stubborn wills.

But we must as did our Saviour surrender our will to God’s will for our lives.

In Gethsemane we see the Saviour praying a prayer “that demands a surrender of soul”, and “a surrender of the will” note also:

3. TO PRAY THIS PRAYER DEMANDS STEADFASTNESS WHEN OTHERS FAIL (VS. 40-46)

Matthew 26:40-46

⁴⁰ And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. ⁴² He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. ⁴³ And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

Note how easy it is to give into the flesh.

At a crucial time these disciples fall asleep.

After the Lord asked His disciples to wait with Him, verse 39 tells us that He went on a little further from them, and fell down and began to pray.

In the midst of His of prayer, He comes back to where the disciples were, and verse 40 says that He, “...findeth them asleep.”

In light of where they were, and Who they were with, it seems unbelievable that they fell asleep!

The Lord seemed surprised as well, and He ask them with this question. “What, could ye not watch with me for one hour?”

They were asleep that night in the garden. Christ asked them if it was so hard to just stay awake with Him for one hour.

This was not just any other night. Within minutes, the Roman guards led by traitorous Judas would come and arrest the Lord, taking Him to His eventual death on the cross.

Surely, had the disciples truly realized the significance of that night, they would have been able to combat their fatigue and waited alertly with their Lord.

Close:

We must remain faithful to the Lord when others fail.

When we find ourselves in a difficult time, it'd may difficult to pray "Thy Will Be Done." The only way that we will be willing and able to pray this difficult prayer is to be Surrendered in the Soul, Surrender to His Will, and Remain Steadfast when Others Fail.