**The Cup of God’s Wrath! (Part 3)**

**Mark 15:1-20**

**The details of the Cup:**

1. The CUP was used in the OT as a symbol for God’s judgment and wrath.
2. The CUP was poured out upon JESUS in four stages.
* Stage 1:while Jesus was in the garden**,** he was overwhelmed with agony as the full realization of the pain and suffering of the CROSS came into focus.
* Stage 2:Jesus felt the shame and humiliation as He endured the trials in which he was falsely accused by the Chief Priests and the Pharisees.
* Stage 3: Jesus stands before Pilate where once again He is falsely accused, and then brutally scourged and mocked by hardened Roman soldiers.
* Stage 4**:** Jesus on THE CROSS, taking upon himself the sins of the world, being separated from his Father’s fellowship, and then dying the death that you and I deserve.

**2 Corinthians 13:5** “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?”

**Four types of men:**

1. The **religious man!**
2. In verse 1, we find the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes, all of whom comprised the Sanhedrin.
* These religious leaders were steeped in tradition.
* They knew the OT backwards and forwards.
* They meticulously observed the Jewish religious laws.
* They constantly broke the main law which was to love the Lord your God with all of your hearts.
* They loved themselves!

**Matthew 15:7-9** Jesus said to them, “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’”

**Amos 5:21-22** “I hate, I despise your religious assemblies. I cannot stand your assemblies. Even though you bring me burn offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them.

1. God hates dead religion. Do you know why? Because it actually works to **harden a man’s heart** and **drive him further from God**.

**Revelation 3:15-16** “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

**Matthew 23:27-28** Jesus said, “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but, on the inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”

1. The **powerful man**—**Pilate!**
2. The problem of power: It often causes a man to feel like he is **in control** of his own world.
3. The problem of wealth: It can cause a man to think he **doesn’t need** anything else. He becomes **self-sufficient**—independent of God.

**Revelation 3: 17-18** “You say, ‘**I am rich**; **I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing**.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”

1. The man who **follows the crowd**!

**John 12:42-43** “Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for **they loved praise from men more than praise from God**.”

**In Matthew 7:13-14,** Jesus says, “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and **only a few find it**.”

1. The man **Jesus!**
2. Jesus literally took up his cross and died on it. That is a picture of the Christian life.

**Matthew 10:38-39** Jesus says, “And anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”—**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

**Hebrews 11:13-16** “All these people (OT believers) were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”