**THE CUP OF GOD’S WRATH (Part 1)!**

**MARK 14:27-52**

The suffering of Jesus begins with His **betrayal**: and then moves to agony in the garden, which is followed by His arrest and abandonment; finally, as you all know, the Suffering Servant will find himself hanging on a cross and drinking **the full cup of God’s wrath**.

This was all part of God’s plan from the very beginning:

“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you **by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge**; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing him to the cross” (**Acts 2:22-23**).

Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen to him for two reasons:

* Jesus was and is **omniscient**.
* Jesus **knew** the Scriptures.

**Zechariah 13:7** says, “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the Lord Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my had against the little ones.”

Have you ever denied Christ? Do you realize how easy it is to deny Him?

* Many church goers claim to believe in God, but when it comes to Jesus, they never even mention his name. Or if they do, it is in the form of swearing his Name in vain.
* Another way to deny Christ is to never share the gospel with others. If you have never shared your faith in Jesus, I would say that is a denial of Christ.
* If you have refused to bow your head in a public restaurant to say a simple blessing because you feared what others might think, that is a denial of Christ.

**Matthew 10:32-33**, Jesus says, “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.”

**GETHSEMANE!**

A most holy place and moment!

It is here that the cup of God’s wrath begins to tilt toward the mouth of Jesus!

There is so much mystery about what transpired between God the Father and God the Son in both Gethsemane and on the cross. This is truly holy ground.

* Jesus was the God-man.
* As the Son of God, He knew exactly what was going to happen to him, because He was omniscient.
* As the Son of Man, He felt the same emotions that you and I feel: anxiety, fear, stress, pain, and sorrow.

In the Old Testament, the word ‘cup’ is often associated with God’s judgment and wrath.

**Isaiah 51:17** “Awake, awake! Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes men stagger.”

* Jesus **began to taste the cup of God’s wrath** as He agonized in the garden of Gethsemane.
* The Greek words that are used, convey the idea of a man who is **deeply distressed**; **troubled**; in the grip of a **shuddering horror** of what lies ahead; an **agony of the soul** that causes one to profusely sweat droplets of blood.

Luke, the Gentile physician shares this truth in Luke 22:44, “And being in agony, he prayed more earnestly; and **his sweat became like great drops of blood falling** to the ground.”

* What was the source of Jesus great anguish?
1. He was in an intense spiritual battle. He knew that he would experience physical torture and suffering by the most painful means of capital punishment ever designed by wicked men.
2. The really great weight that bore down upon His soul, was the knowledge that he would soon bear the guilt, shame and condemnation for all of our sins—my sins and yours. In that moment, He would feel the full source of the wrath of God and be separated from His Father’s fellowship.

**THE HOUR HAD ARRIVED!**

Jesus came into this world for this One Hour. He was on a divine time schedule!

Jesus arose with his disciple to meet his betrayer—**JUDAS**.

**WARNING:** you can have all the outward appearance of a Christian and still be far from God.

* In **Isaiah 29:13** The Lord says, “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.”
* In John 5:39-40, Jesus said the religious leaders, “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”

Jesus is just beginning to taste the cup of God’s wrath:

* He has been betrayed.
* He has been arrested.
* And he has been abandoned by all of his followers.
* Now He is all alone as He began to drink the cup of His Father’s wrath.
* The hour prophesied by Zechariah had arrived. **Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.**