

Not My Will, But Yours, Be Done

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Sermon series: Watch and Pray

Luke 22: 39-46

- **“Watch and Pray” is the title of our series in this Lent Season.**

- I am going over the events that happened before the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Last Sunday we were invited to the Table of the Lord. The Passover meal has a new meaning; Jesus prepared the disciples that their Rabbi would be arrested, would be tried, and would be crucified, and he would die and rise. He also mentioned that one of them would betray him. He also predicted that Peter would deny Him. I don't know how much they understood. Remember what was going on in their mind: they were **arguing** between them about **who is the greatest?**

Today my passage is from Luke 22:39-46

When I think about Jesus, it comes to my mind the Son of God who has control over nature (wind); who can expel demons from people; who can raise Lazarus from death; who is a humble and a powerful servant. The Messiah who speaks in authority. He represents God the Father. (Whoever sees me, sees the Father). He is the savior, the redeemer, the merciful, who cares for you and me...

(In Super Bowl there was an ad about Jesus, the one who washed our feet.)

Today in this passage, we witness the human portrait of Jesus. He is facing death with a range of emotions. “Luke’s portrait of Jesus does not hide behind his deity. He presents a Jesus who can identify with our weaknesses and traumas (Heb. 4:15).”¹

In the prayer we will see both Jesus’ pain, suffering, agony, and his desire to obey His Father, (“not my will but your will be done”). On the other hand, we see the disciples who do not take this event so seriously. They follow Jesus, but they fall asleep.

- Jesus is alone in the garden.
- My prayer for today’s sermon: I pray that each of you see that Jesus is in the Garden in agony because of my and your sin. The weight of sin is enormous.
- He was so much in pain that God the Father sent **an angel** to take care of Jesus.

Let us go to the passage:

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” (Luke 22:39-40 ESV)

- Jesus goes alone to Mount Olive (as it was custom for Jesus to pray there), and disciples follow him.

- Luke says Jesus went to “**the place**”. Matthew and Mark identify as the garden of **Gethsemane**.

Let us analyze the events:

1-Temptation

“Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

This statement appears twice in this passage.

Before going to the PLACE, and after Jesus’ prayer, he sees the disciples sleeping, he says again: **Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.** (Luke 22:46)

-Why did Jesus pray that the disciples “may not enter into temptation”?

Humans are exposed to temptation. And believe me Satan loves that.

Just let me transport you to the beginning of the Gospel of Luke.

- Satan attacks Jesus in a nice convenient way, “I’ll give you authority over humanity, just worship me.” Luke 4 (paraphrased); if Jesus gave up to Satan, we would not have the crucified Son of God. We would not have the prayer in Gethsemane.

In my Christian walk, I have learned that there are major differences between temptation and trial. Trials will help us to become stronger in our walk with the Lord. Temptation’s intention is **NOT to make you stronger**; it is to make you **WEAK** and to **fall in the trap of sin. It will drift you from your faith.**

Think about last Sunday, who is the greatest among us?

Do you see how temptation came and disturbed the disciples, and made their ego the focus; instead of serving the Lord they were interested in position.

- **Temptation in itself is not sin**; the question is how we face it. Temptation will easily drift us from God. It is a **trap** and it comes a “nice way”. We stop worshipping God, and start worshipping our ego, our lust, our will, our position...

- In Matthew, we see the mother of the disciples John and James Zebedee come and ask Jesus to put her sons one on right side and one on the left side. Seriously? What was the answer of Jesus? (I'll discuss later in the sermon).

Who is the author of the temptation?

1. The **Devil** himself:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Eph 6:12)

2. Our **flesh** which works against the Spirit.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh...(Gal 5:16-17 ESV)

- Why is Jesus praying that we may not fall in temptation?

- Jesus himself is facing temptation, as he faced before.

- The disciples will face temptation.

- They can give up from Jesus, deny....

- They can fall away from their faith, facing hardship, when things happen and do not make sense...(you know I mean?)

- When we pray, God will give us **the Holy Spirit**; the Spirit helps us to stay focused, to stay alert, to watch and pray, to not give up when it does not make sense...

I want to remind you the **book of Acts**. Just go over those sermons where we saw how the Spirit of the Lord equipped the disciples, the apostles to face all kind of temptations.

You cannot resist temptation alone, on your own strength. You need God.

2. Remove the cup

⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

⁴³ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:41-44 ESV)

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” (42)

What is this cup?

It is God’s wrath, because of our sins and transgressions.

We read in Isaiah:

Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of his wrath...” (Isiah 51:17 ESV)

This is very heavy stuff, to drink from a cup that represents all the sins of humanity. Sometimes I think about the suffering of Jesus, like the beating, the mocking, the humiliation, the crucifixion. All these are so painful. Yet, drinking **this cup of God’s wrath** is more painful than I cannot imagine.

N.T. Wright reflects:

“(Jesus) knew this death would carry with it the full horror of darkness, of God-forsakenness. He was going to the place where the evil powers of the world could and would do their worst at every level. And part of the torture was precisely the mental agony, the insistent questioning: perhaps there would be another way, maybe he’d misread God’s signals, maybe, as with Abraham when he was about to **sacrifice** Isaac, now that he’d come this far perhaps God would do something new which would mean he didn’t have to go through with it.”²

-In His prayer **his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground...** Can you visualize the agony of our Lord? (The medical term is hematidrosis, in case of extreme pain this can happen, dripping blood and sweat). The agony and pain of being separated from God the Father is huge: God abandons his SON.

-It was so painful that God provided an Angel to **strengthen Jesus**.

The angel came to support Jesus when Jesus was tempted by the devil. **Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.** (Mat 4:11 ESV)

Yes, God allowed His Son to drink the cup; yet God sent an angel to strengthen Jesus.

-Lead us from temptation oh God. Imagine if Jesus gave up from this cup. Jesus accepts to drink this cup and submits himself to the will of his Father.

Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

This will take him closer to crucifixion.

This is victory. Yes, it seems like defeat, but it is not. Satan is defeated, not Jesus.

3. Watch and Pray

⁴⁵ And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” (Luke 22:45-46 ESV)

Too bad, the disciples were tired and fell sleep. Jesus is not using anger to rebuke them. He wakes them up, and repeats saying, “pray that you don’t enter into the temptation.”

Remember the mother of Zebedee’s sons who asked Jesus that her sons would sit on the right and left side of Jesus. Jesus answered saying: “You do not know what you are asking. **Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?** (Matthew 20:22) In my words, “Woman, do you have any idea what does it mean to be follower of Jesus? No one can drink that cup accept me. So stop worrying where your kids will be in heaven. Think about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. I will send them to the world.”

Watch and Pray that you will not fall in temptation.

Application:

1. Temptation.

Stop playing with fire, you are going to burn yourself. If you know your weak points where Satan will attack, flee from exposing yourself to danger. Why are you allowing those things to fill your time? Don’t entertain those temptations. Face them with Jesus. There are support groups that can help you. Be accountable to a mature Christian brother or sister.

2. Prayer.

“Prayer is important, since it brings us into communion with God and allows us to draw on his presence with us. Jesus’ command to “pray,” written in a Greek present imperative. In this context it may suggest an ongoing commitment to pray as opposed to a single moment of prayer. Temptation is avoided only by continued dependence on God (11:4).³

Let us learn to pray from Jesus.

- a. He takes his pain and his needs to God. It is so easy to stop praying when we are busy. We will neglect prayer. We will pray only if we have time. Jesus often prayed. We should take this seriously.
- b. Jesus was honest and expressed his emotions to God. He sincerely desired that God would do something about this cup. On the other hand, He surrendered to God's will. I urge you not to give up from prayer and from humbly surrendering to God's will. I have seen answers of prayer mostly when I surrendered to His will. It is OK to be angry, or upset, or in pain. Bring your felling to God. Just don't give up from prayer.

Thus: Watch and Pray.

Let us end with this Psalm 143 when David prayed:

⁷ Answer me quickly, O LORD!

My spirit fails!

Hide not your face from me,

lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

⁸ Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,
for in you I trust.

Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.

⁹ Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
I have fled to you for refuge.

¹⁰ Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God!

Let your good Spirit lead me
on level ground!

¹¹ For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

1. Darrell L. Bock, *NIV Study Bible Commentary Luke*, P 569

2. N. T. Wright. *Luke for Everyone* P 267

3. Darrell L. Bock, *NIV Study Bible Commentary Luke*, P 568

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.