

Recap of 4/14/19 (Matthew 26:36-46):

1. Jesus' three year ministry is about to come to its culmination. Of all the events of Passion Week, the most poignant, and the most commonly misunderstood, is Jesus' struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane. Properly understood, McGrath sums it up this way: "Here in Gethsemane we can begin to see our sin being transferred to Christ." The "cup" which Jesus prayed could pass from Him was not the physical suffering of the cross, but that He, the sinless and innocent Son of God, would be made sin for us in order to redeem us (2 Corinthians 5:21)

2. Others express it this way:

- "When Jesus Christ was on the Cross, His blood draining the life from His body, He knew what it was like to be alone and wracked with pain. But Jesus' pain was far more than just physical pain, for He was suffering God's judgment on all the sins of the ages—the greatest darkness of the soul ever known. As the divine Son of God, He was perfect and without sin. But all our sins were placed on Him and He took the judgment and Hell we alone deserve. He died on our place." (Billy Graham)

- "We can never fathom the agony in Gethsemane, but at least we need not misunderstand it. It is the agony of God and Man in one, face to face with sin. It was not the death on the cross that Jesus feared in Gethsemane; He stated most emphatically that He came on purpose to die. The agony in Gethsemane is the agony of the Son of God in fulfilling His destiny as the Savior of the world. The veil is drawn aside to reveal all it cost Him to make it possible for us to become sons of God." (Oswald Chambers)

- "The Cross of Jesus is the revelation of God's judgment on sin. Never tolerate the idea of martyrdom about the Cross of Jesus Christ." (Oswald Chambers)

3. Jesus told the Disciples to "watch and pray." That is to "be alert to spiritual dangers," and to "acknowledge dependence upon God." (Grassmick)

- Author and Pastor John MacArthur offers the following, based upon this incident in the Garden of Gethsemane, what he calls the "sequence of spiritual tragedy." It includes self-confidence (trusting in our own power), sleep (indifference), temptation, sin, and finally disaster. He lists as the pattern for spiritual victory: confidence in God rather than self; moral and spiritual vigilance rather than indifference; resisting temptation in God's power rather than our own; and holding to obedience rather than to the rebellion of sin.