

Teach us to Pray
“Defeating Temptation”

Introduction:

While the prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane is quite short, there may be no more instructive prayer ever to fall from the lips of our Lord. It is simple but NOT simplified. It is a prayer that is quite profound! An almost troubling to some, picture of Jesus’ humanity.

A. Boundaries of this scene are marked clearly by Luke’s inclusio

*When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."
Luke 22:40 NKJV*

*Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."
Luke 22:46 NKJV*

NOTE: Also the subject matter is obvious—temptation

“Luke shows the Gethsemane struggle as the critical point at which Jesus’ faithfulness to the divine will is definitively embraced through strenuous prayer.”—Joel Green

NOTE: As Jesus prays through temptation and testing, so should we!

B. Luke clearly sketches this scene to show the unreserved commitment of Jesus to the Father’s will over-against the disciple’s failure.

C. Also underscores that the way to remain triumphant (measured by persistent obedience to the divine will) in the time of trial is through persistent, earnest, and submissive prayer.

D. Mount of Olives (39)

1. Went out “as He was accustomed”
2. Each day he taught in the temple, at night to Mount of Olives (Luke 21:37)-
Rhythm of His life
3. Luke does not say “Gethsemane” (Olive press but Matthew and Mark do). He just says the Mount of Olives. John calls it “kepos”-guardian or orchard.
4. His disciples followed him-“akolou theo”-to follow as a disciple-get close to him even in his humanity

*Good leadership allows that even though one betrayed Him.

E. “Pray that you resist temptation” (40)

*When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."
Luke 22:40 NKJV*

1. "The" (definite article) place-been there before
2. Advice He gives He will shortly follow—pray so that you don't give in to temptation

NOTE: Does not say pray that you won't be tempted. You are—it's a fact of life! Pray that you don't give in!

F. Kneeling in prayer (41)

1. Only time we see this posture in Jesus. Yet we do this all the time!
2. Normally—standing with eyes lifted up.
3. Shows urgency and humility

NOTE: The prayer of Jesus has four parts:

- Address
- Condition
- Petition
- Submission

I. Address: "Father..."

"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Luke 22:42 NKJV

"Father..."

- A. Disciples saw Jesus under extreme pressure

NOTE: Learn a lot there

- B. His address is simply, "Father" (Abba)

1. We tend to employ KJV language
2. Yet, the Son of God, equal to God (Philippians 2:5), calls Him Father

NOTE: Invites us to do the same

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? Luke 11:11-12 NKJV

C. He is forever our Father

II. Condition: "If it is Your will..."

Saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Luke 22:42 NKJV

- A. Matthew and Mark say "If it is possible..."
 - 1. Difference only surface
 - 2. What the Father wills IS possible
- B. Jesus is asking if the Father can, in the realm of His will and purpose, create a way for Him to avoid the cross
 - 1. If in your will its possible! (will-"boulomai"-wish, desire)
 - 2. He wants Father's will, His best for Him
- C. Only if Jesus' prayer can be answered in the scope of the Father's will does He want it answered
- D. Only if you desire it—your will—answer my prayer
- E. He takes time to listen, too. Jesus prayed three times!

NOTE: We go bopping into the throne room, toss God a contract with our plans, and hope for His rubber stamp!

- Didn't ask if Father would permit it
- Asked if Father desired it only!

III. Petition: "Take this cup away from me..."

"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Luke 22:42 NKJV

- A. He asks for a removal of the cup
 - 1. "Take this cup away..." (paraphero) to carry beside
 - 2. Cup—"proterion"—used in the Old Testament as expression for destiny in both good and bad senses—especially refer to divine promise associated with the wrath of God

For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down. Psalms 75:8 NKJV

For thus says the Lord God of Israel to me: "Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. Jeremiah 25:15 NKJV

Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, You who dwell in the land of Uz! The cup shall also pass over to you And you shall become drunk and make yourself naked. Lamentations 4:21 NKJV

But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." 23 So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." Matthew 20:22-23 NKJV

So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?" John 18:11 NKJV

B. Jesus has a mission-a destiny on earth

1. Wasn't all-knowing in His humanity (see Philippians 2:3) "empties himself"-kenoo
2. Had to learn things

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:52 NKJV

3. As a teen comprehended more
4. Father revealed more and more in prayer-fully grasped the cup
5. Scripture spoke to Him-Father interpreted

NOTE: As Jesus read Isaiah in the Synagogue realizes more and more His destiny

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:4-6 NKJV

Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. Isaiah 53:12 NKJV

- ✓ I am the sacrifice
- ✓ I am sin-bearer
- ✓ I am the Lamb of God
- ✓ I came to give my life a ransom for many

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BUT—the ultimate destiny of sin-bearer is utter destruction as the gross and despicable sins of mankind placed on Him (see serpent-John 3:14)

C. In Gethsemane he is beginning to feel what it will be like when the sheer weight of the sins of people are all on Him!

1. Communion with “Father” will be snuffed out
2. Reason for cry, My God! My God!

D. Take this cup from me!

1. Cup of weakness?
2. Complete humanity crying out!
3. Can we fault Him for praying-“take this cup?”

IV. Submission: “Not my will but Yours...”

"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Luke 22: NKJV

- A. Jesus had a preference-remove the cup.
- B. But he ultimately surrenders His preference to the Father’s will. It is difficult.
- C. Can’t pray or surrender properly without owning up to our preference. Not just-“let you will be done.”
 1. Not wrong to have a desire
 2. Not surrender without one
 3. Not “whatever will be...”

To discover God’s will, we must state our own will and the surrender it to God. That is surrender!

Conclusion:

1. He was strengthened by an angel (43)
2. Sweat drops of blood (44)
3. Disciples are sleeping

When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. 46 Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation." Luke 22:45-46 NKJV

- a. While He poured His heart out in prayer-they slept
- b. Matthew and Mark-returned three times! Why? Companionship and encouragement? (Too human-I think He seeks human comfort)
- c. Get up-pray that you don’t fall into temptation

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4. We too must pray to overcome temptation
 - a. Jesus was strengthened in prayer
 - b. Withstood the cross, the trial, the verbal tirades
 - c. He did the Father's will not matter what the cost

5. Final lesson
 - a. The way of Calvary was more costly than we can imagine.
 - b. It is appropriate to state our desire in prayer.
 - c. Even the strong must learn to bend their will to the Father.
 - d. We must learn to pray to avoid/resist temptation.