

Holy Week Reflections: Thursday

Jesus in the garden

Reading: Mark 14:32-65

Setting the scene: It was the week of festival. Jesus and the disciples would most likely have spent the day in the Temple, had a meal together and then retreated to Gethsemane for the evening. All pretty routine. Except for this night. This night Jesus knew what was coming.

Reflection:

Here we meet Jesus in His agony as He awaits His arrest, trial, torture and death. But, consider what it was that was causing Jesus such pain and distress.

Was it the thought of having to endure the cross?

Was it the frustration with his disciples who couldn't even stay awake whilst He prayed?

Was it the separation from His father that He would have to experience as He took on all the sin of the world?



Approaching Gethsemane that night, Jesus knew that in order for Him to accomplish God's plan for us to be reconciled to Him, He would have to go to the cross alone. Jesus had never before and would never again be separated from the Father, but at this time He was in deep agony as He wrestled with the very reality of being alone.

In this moment He calls out to His Father. He retreats to the secret place. He pursues the presence of God to help Him in His suffering. His closest friends couldn't stay wake with Him. He found His comfort and His strength in the presence of His Father.

Jesus went to the cross alone, carrying the weight and penalty of all the sin of the whole world in every generation so that we would never be alone. He went to the cross so that we may never experience the pain, the torture, the agony of being separate from our Father.

In Romans chapter 8 Paul writes:

³¹ *What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?*

³² *Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?*

³³ *Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself.* ³⁴ *Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord”.

Whatever we are facing right now, let us hold on to that promise of extravagant, unconditional love for us. Let us pursue our Father's presence.

Something to think about:

What do we do when we are suffering?

How does Jesus' response help us in our suffering?

Song Suggestion:

See A Victory by Elevation Worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNd-PbVhmvA>

The Blessing sung by Kari Jobe and Cody Carnes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcZ_chRtwLI

Prayer: Believe for your victory that is found in the mighty name of Jesus. Tell God where you want to see His victorious power at work in your life. Give thanks that nothing can ever separate us from the extravagant love of Jesus for us.