

Mk series pt 61

One of the most shocking descriptions of Jesus anywhere
Jesus in agony – emotionally, psychologically
We are meant to feel it.
Heavy theological importance
Garden of Gethsemane and the Garden of Eden
Creates the context for the cross
That liberal/progressive theologians miss... almost on purpose.
Mark is a battleground book
The agony of Christ wasn't just on the cross

Mark 14:32–52 (NASB95)

³²They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed."

³³And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled.

³⁴And He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch."

³⁵And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by.

³⁶And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

³⁷And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?"

³⁸"Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

³⁹Again He went away and prayed, saying the same words.

⁴⁰And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

⁴¹And He came the third time, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

⁴²"Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"

⁴³Immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who were from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

⁴⁴Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him and lead Him away under guard."

⁴⁵After coming, Judas immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

⁴⁶They laid hands on Him and seized Him.

⁴⁷But one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

⁴⁸And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as you would against a robber?"

⁴⁹"Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures."

⁵⁰And they all left Him and fled.

⁵¹A young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him.

⁵²But he pulled free of the linen sheet and escaped naked.

- Intro – the most emotional moment in the life of Christ
 - NOT stoic – medieval paintings.
 - 1- 1500s Giorgio Visari

- 2- Pietro Perugino – c. 1490
- 3 – Carlo Dolci – c. 1650 - blood
- 4- Heinrich Hoffman – d. 1911
- We should see His agony
 - Some avoid it
 - It's meaningful
 - Also DEEP symbolism
 - Garden of Eden
 - Surprising Theology

Mark 14:32–52 (NASB95)

³²They came to a place named Gethsemane;

- Garden of the olive press
 - Img – Garden Trees
- But, in Jesus' time, a functioning olive orchard
 - Recently discovered a bath from that time
- Gethsemane means "Olive press"
 - Fitting – Jesus is like the olive, pressed so hard, and love and obedience come out

and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed."

- What Jesus wants from them
 - To be near him
 - Next verse "he took with Him Peter, James and John"
 - A stone's throw (in Luke)
 - Mike, how did they know what Jesus prayed?
 - Far away and asleep!
 - The Holy Spirit?
 - Jesus told them afterward (40 days)?
 - They heard
 - "stone's throw" is not "as far as a strong man can throw a stone"
 - A generic distance
 - Culturally, even private prayer was normally done out loud.
 - **Hebrews 5:7–8 (ESV)** ⁷*In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.* ⁸*Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.*
 - He may have been loud.
 - Agony.
 - This fits Mark's seeming habit of tracking eye-witnesses
 - Peter, James and John
 - He's human
- To watch (vs 34 "keep watch")
 - To watch out?
 - To witness
 - "watch" implies staying awake
 - Later, it's important that Jesus marches to meet Judas
 - He's a volunteer.

- To pray
 - **Luke 22:40 (NASB95)** ⁴⁰*When He arrived at the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”*
 - They have a test too... one they will fail.
 - I think there’s a BIG theological point being made by it
 - For now, just keep it in mind
 - Neglected prayer may connect to various failings we have.
- Now, we get a shocking description of Jesus’ psychological state
 - On one side= Christians uncomfortable
 - One the other – Skeptics abuse

³³**And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled.**

³⁴**And He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.”**

- Peter, James and John
 - The three were the only ones who...
 - Saw the raising of the little girl (Mk 5)
 - Saw the transfiguration
 - Saw His agony
 - He is the Son of God, who has power over death, yet here He goes to die
- Deeply grieved... to the point of death
 - What’s the point of speaking this way?
 - He is going to die
 - As grieved as He can be
 - Why?
 - Because He’s going forward!
 - All He has to do is walk over the hill.
- In Mark – very consistently has neat allusions to OT
- Only in two places does the OT LXX use describe a “soul” (psuche) as being “deeply grieved” (perilupos)

Psalm 42 (NASB95)

For the choir director. A Maskil of the sons of Korah.

¹*As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God.*

²*My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?*

³*My tears have been my food day and night, While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”*

⁴*These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go along with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God, With the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.*

⁵*Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.*

⁶*O my God, my soul is in despair within me; Therefore I remember You from the land of the Jordan And the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.*

⁷*Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls (Jonah quotes this about himself being in the sea creature – remember that – Jonah 2:3); All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me.*

⁸*The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; And His song will be with me in the night, A prayer to the God of my life.*

⁹*I will say to God my rock, “Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”*

¹⁰*As a shattering of my bones, my adversaries revile me, While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”*

¹¹*Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.*

Psalm 43:1–5 (NASB95)

¹*Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case against an ungodly nation; O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!*

²*For You are the God of my strength; why have You rejected me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?*

³*O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling places.*

⁴*Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my God.*

⁵*Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.*

- Also “to the point of death” has a similar parallel in Jonah 4:9

- Heos Thanatos

- ***Jonah 4:9 (NASB95)*** ⁹*Then God said to Jonah, “Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?” And he said, “I have good reason to be angry, even to death.”*

- Jonah is like and unlike Jesus

- Heart of the sea creature – Jesus

- He is angry to death, Jesus is grieved to death

- Jesus represents God’s heart, unlike Jonah

- Jonah fled

- Jesus went to the cross

- Jonah was bitter and wanted judgment to fall

- Jesus stood in our place

- Jonah wanted them to die and himself to have the comfort of a shady plant, to watch it from

- Jesus was nailed to a dead tree, to die in our place, to give us escape from judgment

³⁵**And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by.**

³⁶**And He was saying, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.”**

- The prayer

- He fell to the ground
 - Unlike how Jesus normally prayed
 - Standing, with His eyes up
 - Abba – special relationship
 - Not “daddy”, not childish
 - Striking and unparalleled
 - Until
 - **Galatians 4:6 (ESV) ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”**
 - All sons
 - Jesus’ relationship becomes ours.
 - Those who say we are all God’s children ignore the cross
- The request
 - To avoid it... if possible.
 - BUT, to have the Father’s will
 - Again, Jesus could have just walked over the hill.
- Trinity
 - Jesus and the Father aren’t the same person
 - Different desires/wills
- The cup
 - PSA – it’s the cup of God’s wrath
 - **Revelation 14:9–10 (NASB95)**
⁹Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.
 - But, **Mark 10:38–39 (NASB95) ³⁸But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹They said to Him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized.**
 - They drink it too?
 - Because it’s just suffering
 - True doctrine, bad proof text.
 - PSA playlist - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ3iRMLYFIHttVR0rkvhBfA-IKrg5SGcp>
 - Scripture, history, theology, philosophy and rhetoric.
 - A point missed by many liberal commentators
 - Jesus submits
 - This is the calm before the storm
 - Like the night leading up to a great battle – one you know you will lose
 - It is also Jesus’ chance to run
 - He stays put
 - “your will be done”

³⁷And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?”

³⁸“Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

- Perhaps Jesus is sympathizing with them
 - His words apply to them and to Himself.
 - **Hebrews 4:15 (NASB95)** ¹⁵*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*
 - Only Jesus overcomes

³⁹Again He went away and prayed, saying the same words.

⁴⁰And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

- “they did not know what to answer Him”
 - They are embarrassed, without excuse
 - After all saying they would die with Him
 - Lesson – how we handle little temptations says more of us than how we boast about our commitment to Christ
 - **Luke 6:46 (NASB95)** ⁴⁶*“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”*
- At this point I’d like to discuss the theology of the Garden
 - A contrasting parallel between Adam and Christ
 - Adam had the garden of Eden, Christ had the garden of Gethsemane
 - It starts with Adam
 - In the Garden of Eden
 - Eden means luxury, delight, pleasure, softness,
 - Jesus is in Gethsemane – to be pressed, crushed.
 - Adam is in pleasure
 - Christ is in agony
 - Adam has life eternal life but eats of the tree that brings death
 - Jesus is life but chooses to suffer death... the consequence of Adam’s choice
 - Adam is tempted and fails
 - Jesus is tempted and resists
 - Eve fails and Adam joins her in rebellion
 - We fail and Jesus pays the cost
 - Adam chooses sin and gets death deservedly
 - Jesus chooses not to sin and gets death he doesn’t deserve
 - Adam’s curse and Jesus’ experience
 - “by the sweat of your brow”
 - “sweat great drops of blood”
 - A skeptical claim – evidence of legendary development
 - Hematidrosis
 - Webmd article <https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/hematidrosis-hematohidrosis>
 - Hematidrosis, or hematohidrosis, is a very rare medical condition that causes you to ooze or sweat blood from your [skin](#) when you're not cut or injured. Only a few handfuls of hematidrosis cases were confirmed in medical studies in the 20th century.
 - People who have hematidrosis may sweat blood from their skin. It usually happens on or around the face...
 - Hematidrosis can look like blood, bloody sweat, or sweat with droplets of blood in it.

- Doctors don't know exactly what triggers hematuria, in part because it's so rare. They think it could be related to your body's "fight or flight" response.
- “you shall die”
 - Jesus dies
 - Not only that
 - Jesus cross represents death,
 - And death as official punishment for extreme wrongdoing
- Thorns
 - Jesus’ crown of thorns

⁴¹And He came the third time, and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

- Interesting that the leadership, high priest, etc. are “sinners”
 - A reversal of their view
 - Modern confusion on this
 - ONLY they are sinners
 - The righteous are the prostitutes
 - Attitude of bitterness toward all religious leaders or groups
 - Or churches in general
 - Biblical truth
 - All are

⁴²“Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!”

- An important moment
 - Jesus has overcome the temptation
 - He heads TO His betrayal!
 - A theological mistake avoided.
 - To think Jesus doesn’t CHOOSE the cross in Mark.
 - Many times over.
 - In 14:24 “this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many”
 - He is making the covenant in His own blood.
 - He dreads it... but He chooses it

⁴³Immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who were from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

- Not Roman soldiers but Temple guard under the leadership of the high priest
 - Seen not only in how all four Gospels describe the group but in where they take Jesus
 - To the chief priests, elders and scribes (14:53)
 - Also, Jesus says they could have arrested Him in the temple
 - That’s the jurisdiction of the temple guard (not the Romans)
 - Possibly Romans too, but under the instigation of the Jewish Sanhedrin

⁴⁴Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him and lead Him away under guard.”

⁴⁵After coming, Judas immediately went to Him, saying, “Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

- Proverbs 27:6 (NASB95) ⁶Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.
 - Probably about rebukes or when a friend comes against you out of love

- Vs flattery of a manipulator
- But, Judas' kill was deceitful and Jesus' wounds are faithful
- Judas wasn't just a patsy
 - The kiss was a mockery

⁴⁶They laid hands on Him and seized Him.

- 4 times today's passage uses the term "seize"
 - This is the moment

⁴⁷But one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

- We know this was Peter.
 - I talked about it last week
 - Why isn't his name mentioned?
 - Perhaps to focus things on Jesus being betrayed and alone.
- Why on earth didn't this lead to massive bloodshed?
 - Luke gives the answer
 - Jesus healed him and stopped the disciples

⁴⁸And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as you would against a robber?"

⁴⁹"Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures."

- As if I were a robber
 - It fulfills Scripture
 - ***Luke 22:37 (NASB95) ³⁷"For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'And He was numbered with transgressors'; for that which refers to Me has its fulfillment."***
 - ***Isaiah 53:12 (NASB95) ¹²Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.***
 - And Mark has Jesus not only treated as a robber but numbered with them as well
 - ***Mark 15:27 (NASB95) ²⁷They crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left.***
 - "robber" same word in the Gk, pejorative
 - Jesus stands in our place – innocent but convicted nonetheless
 - Jesus maintains His innocence but allows Himself to be numbered as a robber
 - Once again, Jesus sees what He is doing in light of Isaiah 53
 - So amazing

⁵⁰And they all left Him and fled.

- Alone
 - Jesus vs Peter
 - "I would die with you!"
 - Said boldly, with conviction
 - "I will die for you" said with tears and blood and agony
- How alone Jesus is
 - Notice a pattern
 - Three predictions in Ch 14
 - Judas will betray (18-21)
 - All 12 will desert him (26-28)
 - Peter will deny him (29-31)

- Three fulfillments in Ch 14
 - Judas (43-49)
 - All 12 (50-52)
 - Peter (66-72)
 - Triple decker Markan sandwich?
 - Between the predictions (18-31) and fulfilments (43-72) is the Garden (32-42)
 - Jesus is utterly alone.
 - He stands as the ONLY faithful one, regardless of our proclamations of love and loyalty.
 - Faithful in the Garden while all others are not
 - John echoes this idea of how alone Jesus was at this time.
 - ***John 16:32 (NASB95)*³²“Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.**
 - But the Father is with Him
 - Another point related to Jesus being alone
 - He dies for those who denied Him, killed Him. For the faithless.
- He ALONE is faithful, good, holy, righteous
 - The gospel

⁵¹A young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him.

⁵²But he pulled free of the linen sheet and escaped naked.

- Is that Mark?
 - Pro – makes sense
 - Consistent with Mark being a later follower based in Jerusalem
 - In Acts 12:12 they stay at Mark’s mom’s house
 - Perhaps this is where the last supper took place
 - Which would explain how he was randomly following them, and not well prepared
 - Maybe Mark saw them leave after the meal and just followed at a distance
 - A young man, curious, excited
 - Con – lack confirmation, conjecture
 - A newer view
 - Papias (c. 130) said Mark never heard or followed Jesus
- Alternate view
 - That it connects to ***Amos 2:16 (NASB95)*¹⁶“Even the bravest among the warriors will flee naked in that day,” declares the Lord.**
 - Against- no obvious connection, no implied connection, no context in Amos to support a Messianic fulfillment
 - The authorship hypothesis seems stronger
 - Let’s add one more to the “pro” column
 - Best hypothesis we have
 - But I wouldn’t be dogmatic about it
- Jesus cry of dereliction in context
 - He predicts His suffering, death and resurrection multiple times
 - He insists that it is NECESSARY
 - He agonizes over it..
 - BEFORE it happens
 - This is only because He knows (no confusion)
 - Chooses God’s will
 - Marches forward to it

- The point – agony – not doubt and confusion
 - Agony that comes from what He knows will happen, a decision that comes from what He knows beyond that
- Application
 - Your agony – trust in God
 - He knows, intimately
 - He has succeeded