



WORD OF THE HOUR MINISTRIES.

Projecting the Ministry of the Holy Spirit in this Hour and Season.

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The Gethsemane Battle for Mankind



Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me.....nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt – Mark 14:36.

Gethsemane is the transliteration of Aramaic “ Gat-Shemanim” meaning “Oil Press or the ‘Crushing Place’ . It is the venue in the history of Eternity where the Greatest Battle Ever Fought took place. It is where Christ met Satan in his fullest fury and schemes. It is the place where the agony and travail of the Soul of Jesus was found acceptable to hold the wrath of God over man. Isaiah 53:11-*He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

The death of Christ on the cross was by itself not any harder than what others were facing at that time at the hands of the Romans or from that which the saints faced during the dark ages that followed. Indeed some of them have faced far worse and far greater painful deaths.

However none of them faced the kind of death that Jesus faced at Gethsemane. In fact, there at Gethsemane, the agony and travail of the soul of Jesus (Isaiah 53:11) was so intense and of such a pure quality, that it was found acceptable with God to stand as a ransom for a guilty Mankind! *“He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities”- Isaiah 53:11.* Christendom often focusses largely on the grueling hours of scourging and crucifixion and hardly focuses on the grueling battle that took place at Gethsemane. The outcome of that battle is the Victory for the Christian today. Calvary was just the follow up of the victory and decision already gained and made - at Gethsemane.

The relative narration from the Bible are as follows...

Matthew 26:36-46-*Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. 41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” 42 He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” 43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. 45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise let us go! Here comes my betrayer!*

Gethsemane, like at Jordan and Mt Transfiguration is a scene of ardent prayer. At all times the Theophany Body resident within Jesus of Nazareth was being affected. There is also an emotional hypercharge in operation. The disciples are overcome by sorrow as Jesus is “overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death”. The otherwise calm and confident Jesus is suddenly here in Gethsemane greatly distressed and casts himself to the ground.

Something big was about to happen. Jesus himself knows about it and the disciples have not yet comprehended what is going on a few feet away from them as they lie yielded to drowsiness and slumber. There the Son of God starts to grapple with the deepest mystery of God's Love and Purpose. He starts to grapple with the author of Sin and Death including master over death, hell and the grave. The Old Serpent that caused the Angels downfall followed by mankind's downfall suddenly finds himself utterly helpless at the hands of this young adversary carpenter from Nazareth.

Jesus had already instructed his disciples to pray so that they would themselves not fall into temptation. He was sure of where he stood and needed not their prayers. Jesus also knew that from the beginning he had come according to the volume of the book to do the Fathers will (Psalm 40:7). Therefore there was no doubt that he had to pass through the crucifixion. However we read that He was asking if the cup could pass from him. He was not seeking to change the Fathers mind as we often suppose and preach. He dreaded partaking of the cup though. What that cup is can be concluded from a number of scriptures a few of which are Isaiah 51; Jeremiah 25 & Revelation 14. Perhaps it is Revelation 14 that is most instructive to us. *And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If any one worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, he 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. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name".*

This cup was none other than the fact that He would not be in communion with His Father during those few hours as He takes upon Himself the Sins of the Whole World. He was not in agony because He would be forsaken by men, but that He would be forsaken by God. He, who created Hell, was not afraid of Hell. He who created the iron on the earth by the power of His Spoken Word was not afraid of a nail. Our understanding of the magnitude of the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ is multiplied when we realise that He was omniscient and being omniscient he experienced His own death to come, every day of his mortal life. He fully understood everything; He fully experienced His death before it ever happened. He was "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3)? The pain of the cross was always with Him, but it was in the garden that it reached its apex. So he was not afraid of the scourging or crucifixion itself, no doubt.

However, he dreaded losing the fellowship and communion of His Father. That is exactly what he cried on the cross too, *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* Mathew 27:46.

There in Gethsemane, we find that the father sends an Angel to strengthen him, who is in anguish and whose sweat mixed with blood is falling to the ground. Had this strengthening not taken place, Jesus would have died in Gethsemane itself, being in sorrow of missing His father's fellowship as he starts to adorn the Sins of Mankind upon Himself. He could not bear the thought of experiencing His Fathers wrath especially the Father who at Jordan had proclaimed, *This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased* and also similarly at Mt Transfiguration. All his life on earth, Jesus had lived in his Father's sweet Love and now he cannot bear to think about not having his father's communion even for a few hours. What a lesson for us miserable ones, to learn. How much we ought to be wanting the Fellowship and Communion of the Father on a daily basis. Yet we go through life hardly thinking about it at all !

Thus, after He was strengthened, Jesus returned to His prayer in the garden, praying. Calvary should not stun us any more than Gethsemane does. The suffering of our Lord was not merely Him, in his humanity, struggling with the ugly realities of the cross. It was a supernatural suffering, the unique, unparalleled, suffering of the sinless God-man, who alone could see into the celestial realms and the depths of God's righteousness, man's sin, and the measure of divine wrath which these required.

Thus in Gethsemane, he having yielded to God's will, he defeated Satan in the greatest battle ever fought for mankind. We see how the battle was waged from another part of the scriptures. Philippians 2:6-11 reveals how Jesus fought this battle... *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

All of the fear that Satan could put on him was not enough as he looked into the future and saw every one of His Father's dear children needing salvation, and in his unparalleled love for the Father, he chose to yield his life to the bitterness of the cross. It was his love for the Father that gave him the strength to make the decision and nothing else. He so loved the Father that he loved us also. What a transformation we need in our lives in the light of this love of the Father to the Son and the Son to the Father. It is the one element that will change us from within. Nothing else will change us, no charismatic or Pentecostal emotion can replace the awareness of this real love in the Beloved. It will help us become solid and make us praying individuals. It will make mission work more real and more meaningful.

If we do not understand the deep love the Father had with His Son, then we cannot ever grasp what it cost God to procure our Salvation. We can never come to repentance nor will our Faith mean anything to God. We will end up simply focused on form and formats and repeating religious exercises leaving the reality of the Love element out of the picture. There will be no transformation in our lives. Anything and everything that we do which does not result in positive spiritual transformation is useless. Transformation by the Living Ruach Ha Kodesh into the Image and Likeness of God as revealed in the face of Jesus Christ is the primary purpose of redemption and the end purpose of our creation.

May God help us to realize this. Amen

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Galatians 5:6

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