

▼ **Jesus Faces The Coming Horror - Part 3**

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- **Read the Passage: Matthew 26:36-56**

▶ **Sermon's Purpose (what listeners should do)**

▼ **Jesus then and now**

- ▶ Up until this point in his life Jesus has displayed nothing but confidence about his mission: Matthew 4:1-11; Matthew 16:21-28; John 17

▼ Now he changes:

- ▶ This experience is attested in all 3 synoptic gospels: Mark 14:32-51; Luke 22:39-53
 - Jesus recognized what was coming and asked the Father for a way out.
 - Jesus agonized in prayer over what was coming.
 - Jesus asked his inner circle to accompany him in prayer.

▼ **Jesus was facing more than physical pain and death.**

- ▼ Other Jewish leaders had faced death with boldness. Jesus was facing more than death and physical suffering:

- Zechariah - 2 Chronicles 24:17-22
- Stephen - Acts 7:54-60

- ▼ Jesus must have been troubled by something more than his impending physical suffering and death.

- Jesus body was the place where God condemned sin:
- Falling on a grenade.
- Embracing character assassination on social media.
- ▶ Investigating a serial killer.

▼ The cup

- Not the cup of Psalm 16:5, or Psalm 23:5, or Psalm 116:13
- Not the cup of Proverbs 23:31
- Psalm 75:8; Isaiah 51:17, 22; Jeremiah 25:15, 17, 28; Habakkuk 2:16
- In Jesus, God suffers: Colossians 1:15-20; Colossians 2:6-15; Hebrews 1:1-4

▼ **Why did Jesus share this experience with his disciples and us?**

- ▶ Jesus lived a lifestyle of prayer: Mark 1:35-38; Luke 5:15-16
- Jesus still needed this extraordinary time of prayer in order to face the cross.
- ▶ Trials in some areas are in only understandable if you've made an initial commitment: Children, School, House, Business
- ▼ Jesus' disciples did not all experience Gethsemane in the same way!
 - ▼ They were all fresh from:
 - ▶ Foot-washing - John 13
 - The Passover Meal
 - Jesus' shocking announcement of his impending betrayal.
 - Jesus' teaching in John 14 - 17
 - Judas (Judah) had left to betray him and would show up at the end to complete the task.
 - Eight of the disciples were left, presumably near the entrance, with instructions to sit and wait.
 - Three of the disciples - Peter, James, and John were brought further along by Jesus with instructions to keep watch and pray. They experienced his "breakdown", but ultimately fell asleep.
 - Nevertheless, they bore witness to what Jesus, and ultimately God, went through on their behalf.
- ▼ **What is our level of Kingdom commitment?**
 - ▶ Who are you in this story? The chief priests & leaders; the crowd; Judas; Peter; One of the apostles, One of Jesus' female disciples?
 - Fundamental Attribution Error?
 - ▼ After his time of prayer Jesus was confident that he could still call on the Father for angelic backup - yet he had made up his mind to go through with his arrest, trial, condemnation, and crucifixion.
 - What does this teach us about the Father's will for Jesus?
 - What does this teach us about Jesus?
 - How intensely do you engage with Jesus' experience at Gethsemane? What do you learn from it?
 - What impact does this incident have on your engagement with the rest of Matthew's gospel?
 - Does your own life lead others to engage with Jesus' experience? What might they learn from it?