



Part 11 Intense Surrender Mark 14:32-42

Are you struggling to follow God's will? Is there a habit or attitude holding you back in your faith? Is there something or someone in your life God is asking you to surrender? Does following God's will scare you to death? In the Gethsemane moments--

1. Even Jesus had to

"They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,' he said to them. 'Stay here and keep watch.' Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him." Mk. 14:32-35

*"An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground."
Lk. 22:43-44*

2. Even Jesus had to

"'Abba, Father,' he said, 'everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'" Mk. 14:36

3. Even Jesus had to

"Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. 'Simon,' he said to Peter, 'are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.' Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy, (exhausted from sorrow). They did not know what to say to him." Mk. 37-40/(Lk. 22:45)

"So he left them and went away once more and prayed...saying the same thing." Mt. 26:44

"Returning the third time, he said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!'" Mk. 14:41-42

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Heb. 4:15-16

Ask yourself: _____ ?

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:15-16*

Monday

Read Mark 14:12-31. This is what happened right before the Gethsemane moments we talked about in last weekend's services. What new meaning did Jesus give to the Passover bread?

To the cup?

Why do you think Jesus was very deliberate about making sure he had a room and privacy for this last time of teaching with the disciples? Why was this particular teaching moment so important?

What do they all vow to Jesus even after he predicts their falling away?

Why do you suppose Jesus told them they would all fall?

How do you think they felt as they walked to the olive garden on Gethsemane?

Thank God today for His intense love for you. Thank Him for His willingness to bear your sin in order to save you. Ask Him to give you a soft heart for surrender.

Tuesday

Read Mark 14:32-34. Read a description of the Messiah in Isaiah 53:3. What does it mean to you to see Jesus as a “man of sorrows”?

What struggle do you have in your life right now that you find it difficult to believe Jesus can sympathize with?

Read Hebrews 4:15. What does this teach us?

Having gone through the Gethsemane experience, how is Jesus able to truly sympathize with you?

How does this encourage you when you ask for His help?

Thank God today that He understands sorrow. Thank Him for caring for you. Talk to Him about your sorrows. Give them to Him for His care and help.

Wednesday

Read Mark 14:35-36. It's been said that every major struggle in our lives comes down to this choice: My will or God's will. When in your past have you been faced with a difficult choice where your will was very appealing to you, and God's will seemed impossible and frightening?

What happened?

Where are you facing such a choice right now? It could be a specific temptation, an illness, a relationship, an addiction, a trial... any area where circumstances seem more than you can bear.

As you think specifically of your area of struggle, pray the prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane-- what some have called “the perfect prayer”-- “Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Nevertheless... not what I will, but what you will.”

Thursday

Read Mark 14:27-31. In this passage, the disciples were eager to say they would never, ever let

Jesus down! But look what happened immediately after their vow of faithfulness: Read Mark 14:37-41 and Mark 14:66-72.

Why do you think the disciples failed so quickly?

Have you ever made a vow to God and almost immediately found yourself breaking it?

What were contributing factors to the disciple's failure to support Jesus effectively?

How do these same factors play a role when you find yourself unfaithful to Jesus?

What can you learn from this?

Thank God today for His faithfulness to you. Pray that your choices today will reflect faithfulness to Him.

Friday

Read John 20:19-22. Remember: the last time Jesus saw his disciples before this, they were deserting him just hours after their promise to defend him to the death! Then after the resurrection he appears before them in power! We would expect some word of rebuke, or even a subtle “I told you so” message. Instead, what happens?

What is missing from Jesus' words to the disciples?

What does this tell you about his words to you when you fail?

How is this different than what you imagine Jesus to be like?

Thank God today for His mercy toward you. Thank Him for the fact that He made you and understands you. Ask Him to strengthen your spirit and desire for holiness.

Saturday

Today please finish any meditations you might have missed, and please pray for the services this weekend. Pray also for the Easter services coming up soon-- and be praying about who you can invite! Thanks!! Thank God today for His intense love for you. Pray that you will be soft hearted and willing to follow God.