

Talking & Walking

Series on Prayer & Holiness

- not about magic formulas
- not about how to get what you want from God
- *About relationship and Intimacy
- *About knowing and hearing God in transforming ways
- *About a lifestyle that shows in our desires and actions

Caution – not for the lazy or faint hearted, will cost you time, investment, preparation, and may lead to radical life change!

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Setting:

- Garden of Gethsemane
- Following Last Supper – Prayer for disciples
- Verge of Betrayal and subsequent death
- takes three closest friends
- asked them to pray, moved off to pray
- filled with sorrow, dread, abandoned, betrayed, facing the separation from the Father, physical pain

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“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.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” 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.”

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

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“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.” When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. 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. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

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1. The Struggle

- remembrance day – cost of freedom
- cannot imagine the struggle of going into war
- appreciate the incredible sacrifice
- worth dying for!

a) What Jesus Was Facing

- abandonment by followers
- betrayal by Judas

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- pain and suffering
- separation from the Father
- burden of sin – our price paid by Him

b) Honesty of the Heart

- if this cup can be taken from me
- sorrow, overwhelmed, disturbed, anxious
- three requests over hours of time
- not easily dealt with

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c) The Huge Cost

- trinity broken, relationship severed
- sin atoned for, relationship with God restored
- battle in the heavenlies

*Note – Jesus Prays in the Darkest Moment

* when the Son of God faces this moment, He spends time with the Father, honestly, seeking that conviction of cause that allows for strength to see it through.

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2. The Request

a) Come With me to Pray

- three closest friends
- honest about the depth of struggle
- watch and pray with me!
- finds them asleep
 - * don't judge, identify
 - * not a sin to sleep – just not doing what they were asked to do

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- second time leaves them asleep
 - will God find you doing as He asks, or simply doing what is easy or natural?
 - you will be let down by other believers, just means you have friends like Jesus
- b) Take this Cup From Me YET not my will but yours
 - honest about his feelings, yet clear about surrender
 - does not demand – asks for alignment
 - wonder why three times?

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- takes time to ingrain, align, accept, turn towards
- not easily attained, not simply approached
- request is that my desire become surrendered to your plan and purpose
- Jesus request was that God's will be done – surrender

3. The Surrender

- awaking the disciples – here we go
- changed disposition – acceptance and resolute

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a) Difficult Teaching

- culture says – about you, self interest, care for you
- Jesus shows –
 - sacrifice, surrender, will of Father matters
 - obedience to the call of the Father
 - total acceptance of God's plan
 - willing to walk the difficult road

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b) Jesus Shares This Specifically

- ever wonder how we know what he prayed?
- after the grave – important teaching for us
- shares the struggle, the requests and the surrender
- called to take up cross and follow Jesus
- key truth shared for you and I

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So What

1. The Struggle

- we live in a fallen world, face difficult things
- death, sickness, abandonment, persecution, pain
- God has a plan – we don't see all the parts
- How are you praying in the struggle?
 - change my path God, remove this struggle – honest
 - get me through it, not around it!

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2. The Request

- here is how I feel BUT not my will yours
- help me understand the stakes
- carry me through the dark moments and trials
- help me see the call, the cross, the mission
- give me others to walk alongside and lean on
- help me accept others failings – not bitter or angry

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3. The Surrender

- I will accept what you allow to come my way
- Give me resolute, firm conviction about your truth
- Give me the strength to do as you ask
- Surrender my desires to your ways – change me

*praying like Jesus shows an obedience and acceptance of God's way for me!

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Questions to Ponder: Do you Pray to....

- get from God or get God
- Move God or for God to move you
- get out of pain or get through the pain
- hear God's answer – yes, no, later
- know the stakes and your role in them – Hebrew 5:7-9

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him