

The Cup • Matthew 26:36-46

Mar 24, 2010 6:16:11 AM

"THE CUP" • Matthew 26:36-46

INTRODUCTION. Fear Factor TV show... (heights, spiders, snakes, eat gross stuff)... I have a great idea for a fear factor challenge:

Finding an old "sippie cup" in the van... giggled it... opened it... semi-solid, spoiled and molded milk...

EXPOSITION. -- Matthew 26:36-46

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." **37** And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. **38** Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."

- The setting: Thursday night after the passover...
- "very sorrowful" = mental distress, mental pain, horror-struck
 - The night before major surgery... or worse...
 - Imagine you knew the time and KIND of death you would experience... long and painful, torture.
- A very simple command is given... he just wants them to be with him in his sorrow and watch with him
- A **helpful application** for ministering to those who are suffering: don't fix, just be with them (Job's friends were at their best when they say with him and didn't say anything at all!)
- Jesus is the ultimate Job here...

39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

- Jesus models complete surrender to the will of God / radical obedience
- "this cup" = the cup of suffering... wrath and justice of God [Young Life skits...]
- Sin has consequences
 - steal or kill = prison
 - cheat on an exam = 0
 - drugs = hepatitis or worse
 - Jesus is wrestling with bearing the consequences for sin
- Jesus' death would be vastly different from that of a martyr...

40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- The flesh is weak...
- They couldn't keep up with Jesus for an hour!
- Paul in Romans 7— reveals our need for Jesus!
- This is true in every facet of our lives... our obedience is short lived and shallow...
- John Calvin knew this- *Institutes* (abridged, pp. 22-23)

42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." 43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

- Reveals the genuine humanity of Jesus, and how even as a man he was fully sold out to the Father's will
- The father's will was reconciliation
- Reconciliation required the debt be paid.
- Anselm (11th c. theologian), *"We have offended an infinite God so we owe him an infinite debt. But as finite creatures, we are incapable of repaying that debt. It is a debt that man owes, but that only God can pay. In other words, we have a God-sized debt, but we are only man-sized. how can we pay? We need a God-sized man to pay. Jesus, the God-sized man, has paid the God sized-debt."*

45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

- Fellowship with the father has equipped him for the choice that he had made
- Was there possibly a process to his prayer... that made him see the joy on the other side of his suffering?

ILLUSTRATION. Paul Miller tells the story about his wife asking him to check on their pet sheep, Ed... p. 232 (Love Walked...).

He had a choice to make...

We all make choices like this all the time...

But this story is about the choice that Jesus had to make. The ultimate choice!

REDEMPTION.

Jesus' death was an exchange. Like going to lunch and having someone else pay the bill. He paid the debt HIMSELF... IN FULL. We can't even pay the tip (**that is RELIGION!!!**)

Because Jesus drank the cup of wrath/justice. Down to the DREGS! not one drop left for me to drink.

Jesus drank the molded sippie cup so that we could savor... the cup of grace.

APPLICATION / INVITATION. So, what am I to do?

- 1) Understand the cross
- 2) Believe it personally
- 3) Let your life be a cup overflowing with thanksgiving and praise



EVERNOTE

[What is Evernote?](#) [Create an Evernote account](#)