

CTW: Revelation 22:1-17

Reading: Matthew 26:36-46

AGD: Jesus goes to the garden to pray. They've just left the Passover. Now there is a different kind of cup being passed around.

1. Garden
 - a. Death before the next evening
 - b. Jesus is asking (three times) for the cup to be removed
 - c. Night of betrayal –Judas but also disciples
 - i. They didn't have an appetite for this cup
2. Thirsty
 - a. We don't like to do without
 - b. We want pleasure and satisfaction
 - c. Sometimes God generates a thirst
 - i. We pour in substitutes
 - ii. Sometimes God withholds to draw us in
3. Cup of Suffering
 - a. We don't care for it (would rather be thirsty)
 - b. I take a pass, whine and complain
 - c. I try to escape
 - i. Rescue myself or get others to
 - ii. Ask God to tell me what to do (direction)
 - iii. Ask God to intervene (change my circumstances)
 - iv. Ask God to explain (Give perspective)
 - d. Jesus prays but then embraces
 - i. Endure
 - ii. Something more important
 - iii. Jesus trusted in Who the Father is more than in what the Father could do
4. The Church could be
 - a. A little more thirsty (we are so fat!)
 - b. More willing to suffer
 - c. We could at least be awake!
 - d. We could also be more trusting of the One who drank the cup of the wrath of God for us
 - i. We might be more grateful
 - ii. Less put out when we thirst
 - iii. Less indignant when we suffer
 - iv. But Jesus didn't just drink the cup of judgement for our sin
 - e. God shares our cups also
 - i. Jesus drinks whatever passes our lips
 - ii. He knows the way
 - iii. He invites us to follow—there is a cross for every Christian

5. CLOSE

- a. One day the cups of suffering will run dry
- b. One day there will be another cup
 - i. That cup of joy is served at the wedding feast of the Lamb
 - ii. Jesus's last meal with us was one of bitter herbs and sour wine eaten in haste. His next meal will satisfy all our hungers. That time with Him is something worth thirsting for.
- c. Until then I can trust not just in what God can do but in Who God Is
 - i. I can ask God to remove the suffering but I can also embrace it and trust Him anyway
 - ii. For Suffering is a way to be with God
 - 1. It is an invitation to thirst
 - iii. And You Lord alone satisfy the thirsty.