

life groups' sermon guide

switch: trading places



Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for spiritual growth, caring for one another, and reaching out to others.

For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.

Psalm 75:8

"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Jesus, Matthew 26:39

The "cup" is not a reference to a wooden cross; it is a reference to divine judgment. It is the cup of God's wrath.

David Platt

Read Matthew 26:36-39

The cup of which Jesus speaks in Matthew is not just a cup of suffering. It cup of wrath. It is every judgment pronounced by God on the sins of the world. It is rejection, anger, and judgment. A bitter and terrible drink of which Jesus has earned not a single drop, but we willingly takes it on. For us. Because the Father willed it.

[Q] What was in the cup of which that Jesus speaks from our perspective?

- From God's perspective?
- From Jesus' perspective?

[Q] Have you ever agonized over a tough decision, or of doing something unpleasant that must be done? What was it like?

It is important to notice the reason Christ submitted. As selfish, sin prone humans, we naturally look to this event and like to say that He chose at that moment to bear the cross to save us, to pay for our sins, all because he loved us. But this is not what the Bible says.

When push comes to shove, when Christ is sweating blood because of the agony of what is coming, when his friends are either asleep or betraying him, he goes forward for one reason. It is the Father's will that he do so. Jesus chose the cross there in the garden not primarily because he loved us, but because he loved the Father. And in obeying and doing his will, he brought glory to God.

It is also for that reason that he came to the world. John 3:16 says that God so loved the world that he sent his only son to save it. Notice that Jesus didn't send himself. Even his being here was an act

of obedience to the Father. Everything, everything, everything Jesus did was to bring glory to God.

[Q] How did Jesus bring glory to God by laying down his will and obeying?

[Q] What would have been the impact if Jesus had disobeyed?

[Q] How important is our obedience in glorifying God?

Read Matthew 26:42-54

Jesus says here that all he must do is call on the Father, and he will have an army to save him. Yet he remains silent, knowing full well what would happen by doing so. This must have been a terribly tempting time for Jesus. Having friends willing to fight for you in times of trouble is a great comfort and is an easy shield to rally behind. Yet Jesus did not - he was fully focused on his mission. A focus powered by an impassioned surrender to the will of the father.

[Q] When we are faced with putting God first, both in big and small things, where is our first source of strength?

[Q] Is it prayer and surrender or our own personal, rational perception of a situation?

[Q] What alternatives does the world offer in place of surrender to God? How do these alternatives prevent us from bringing glory to God?

And it is not just here - Christ held fast to the will of the Father above all things, even the seemingly inconsequential. For example, in Matthew 16, after Jesus proclaims he will be killed, Peter takes him aside and says to him:

Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.

Matthew 16:22

Myself? I would take this as a dear friend standing up for me, and I would be honored. But that is my sinful, selfish nature speaking. Jesus, who is focused wholly on submitting to God, has a response that is entirely different:

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Matthew 16:23

[Q] Why was Peter's statement so dangerous to Christ's mission?

[Q] In what areas do we put our mind on the things of man instead of the things of God? How do we recognize these areas?

Read Matthew 26:55-56

In the end, Jesus was left alone. This will often be the case, when we pursue the will of God over the will of man. But we see in Jesus' action leading up to this a man surrendered to the mind and will of God *before* the trial came. As you pray and read the Word this week, seek to do the same.