

The Cup **Matthew 26:36-46**

“Here we come to the Holy of Holies of our Lord’s life on earth. This is a mystery like that which Moses saw when the bush burned with fire, and was not consumed. No man can rightly expound such a passage as this; it is a subject for prayerful, heart-broken meditation, more than for human language.”—C. H. Spurgeon

What did Gethsemane mean to Jesus?

1. Jesus was facing total abandonment.

2. Jesus faced enduring the wrath of God as he bore the sins of the world.

“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)

“Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering.” (Isaiah 51:17)

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

“He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

“Propitiation is a sacrifice that bears God’s wrath to the end and in so doing changes God’s wrath toward us into favor.”—Wayne Grudem

How should we respond to Gethsemane?

1. Recoil at the horror of your sin.

“As the salt flavors every drop in the Atlantic, so does sin affect every atom of our nature. It is so sadly there, so abundantly there, that if you cannot detect it, you are deceived.” —Charles H. Spurgeon

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)

2. Embrace the deep love and grace of Jesus.

“In the first garden “Not your will but mine” changed Paradise to desert and brought man from Eden to Gethsemane. Now “Not my will but yours” brings anguish to the man who prays it but transforms the desert into the kingdom and brings man from Gethsemane to the gates of glory.”—D. A. Carson