

# THE GARDEN OF GETHESEMANE

(How The Garden Affects Your Decisions Under Pressure)

Mark 14:26-42



- ◆ The Place of the Garden
- ◆ The Praying of the Garden
- ◆ The Prize of the Garden

**“Take this cup from me, nevertheless, not what I want, but what You want.” (Verse 36)**

**Bill Kirk**

# "THE GARDEN EXPERIENCE"

**Text:** Mark 14:26-42 (Verse 32) "A Place Called Gethsemane"

**Subject:** How the Garden Affects your Decisions (Under Pressure)

## Introduction

**Question:** How many of you want to make the **right decisions** under pressure?

**Question:** How many of you want a **healthy disposition** in your attitude?

**Question:** How many of you want to live **free from sin's dominion** in your life?

**Question:** How many of you want to **die with confidence** when it comes your time to die?

- ◆ God deals with all four of these in Scripture and,
- ◆ All four will allow the Lord to make us wiser, stronger, healthier and sweeter.

## "How the Garden Affects Your Decisions"

### I. The Place of the Garden

**Question:** Why is the garden of Gethsemane listed in all four gospels?

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and John 18

**Answer:** Because everybody here will have their Gethsemane. (I repeat)

**Question:** Why is Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane?

1. The word "Gethsemane" means "oil press" or "olive press".
2. Gethsemane was part of an olive orchard at the foot of the Mount of Olives.
3. It was a plot of land where an olive press extracted oil from the olives.
4. It was located just beyond the Kidron Valley (1/2 mile from the city wall of Jerusalem).
5. It was a place that Jesus loved to retreat to, so He could get alone and pray.

### **Get a picture of this:**

- ◆ Jesus has been sitting at a table fellowshiping with His disciples.
- ◆ He delivers the great discourses that John records.
- ◆ He leaves the Upper Room after singing a hymn (which was Psalm 116, 117 & 118)
- ◆ And He walks through Jerusalem, out to the garden and experiences a sudden change.

**Question:** What changes from the calm conversation He has with His disciples?

**Answer:** Mark 14:33, "He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he **began To be sore amazed and very heavy.**"

(Verse 34) "And He told them, "**My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death.**"

1. "**Sore amazed**" (EKTHAMBEISTHAI) which means:
  - ◆ Extreme terror and bewilderment.
2. "**Very heavy**" (ADEMONEIN) which means:
  - ◆ Extreme trouble and distress.

3. **“Exceeding sorrowful unto death”** which means:  
♦ Agony of soul and sorrow that is life threatening.

### **In other words**

Jesus feels such intense pain that He is about to explode.

**Question:** How do we know that Jesus is suffering beyond description?

1. Jesus said so!
2. Jesus began to sweat great drops of blood.
3. God had to send an angel to strengthen Jesus in the garden!

**Question:** Why is Jesus suffering?

1. **Physical pain;** Jesus knows He will be crucified.
2. **Emotional pain;** Jesus knows He will face Calvary alone.
3. **Spiritual pain,** Jesus knows He will carry the weight of your sin and mine.

### **It's the cup of suffering.**

**Question:** What is the cup of Jesus?

**Answer:** It's not dying (Jesus already knows He will rise again).

### **The cup is:**

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| ♦ The denial of Peter                          | ♦ The weight of our sin   |
| ♦ The kiss of Judas                            | ♦ The pain of the cross   |
| ♦ The forsaking of the disciples               | ♦ The injustice of man    |
| ♦ The baptism into suffering                   | ♦ The taking of our guilt |
| ♦ The sin carried that Father can't look upon. |                           |

**Fact:** The presence of the cup is very real in life.

**Question:** Have you ever been to the garden?

**Question:** Have you ever been overwhelmed with pain?

**Question:** Have you ever been crushed with a broken heart?

**Question:** Have you ever asked God **“why”**?

**Question:** Have you ever been mistreated unjustly?

**Question:** Have you needed grace in the garden?

**Fact:** The “cup” in Jesus' day was known as a word to denote anguish and sorrow and even death.

**Fact:** The cup was the ancient method of punishing someone.

**Fact:** A cup of poison was placed into the hands and people were forced to drink it.

**Fact:** Socrates was killed when the magistrates of Athens forced him to drink a cup of hemlock juice.

**Fact:** The cup in the garden refers to the pain that touches your life.

**Question:** What's the secret to survival in garden seasons of life?

## **II. The Praying of the Garden**

**Question:** What did Jesus do in the garden?

### **(Verse 36) "Father"**

1. "All things are possible unto thee."
2. "Take away this cup from me."
3. "Nevertheless, not what I want, but what You want."

**Notice the words  
"Father, all things are possible for you."**

**Question:** What is Jesus acknowledging?

**Answer:** That Father has the authority to remove this,  
That Father has the power to spare Him,  
That Father has the ability to do anything!

- ◆ This will keep you from cynicism and bitterness.
- ◆ This will protect you from "poor me" and a martyr's complex.

**How? Because you understand:**

- ◆ That God has the power to spare you the cup.
- ◆ That God has the power to shield you from sorrow.
- ◆ That God has the power to stop your Gethsemanes. **(In other words)**

**The cup reminds me always,**

- ◆ That in the midst of my cup, God is still in control and over all.
- ◆ That God is not deflated or defeated by your sorrow or anguish.
- ◆ That God knows who you are, where you are, and what He is doing.
- ◆ That God could remove your cup, but will also (in your garden) give you faith to endure until you pass thorough Gethsemane.

**Question:** What's the secret in allowing the cup to help me (and not hurt me?)

**Answer:** The secret is in the prayer of Jesus.

**"Nevertheless, not My will but Yours be done."**

**Question:** Where did Jesus win the victory at His cup experience?

**Answer:** In the Garden of Gethsemane!

**Question:** How did Jesus win the victory at His cup experience?

**Answer:** In prayer to the Father!

**Question:** How (in prayer) did Jesus overcome and not yield to enemy temptation?

**Answer:** When He prayed one word.

**Question:** What's the one word that spares us from the spoil and poison of our gardens?

**Answer:** "**Nevertheless**" not my will but thine be done.

- ◆ Jesus is not wrestling with God's will; He knows it.
- ◆ Jesus is not rebuking God's will; He is surrendered.

- ◆ Jesus is not blaming God for something; He is yielded.
- ◆ Jesus is simply pouring out His soul in prayer until He conquers something.

### **What is it?**

- ◆ It is those times; gardens, cups and sorrows when what you want differs from what God wants!

1. Jesus begins with "Remove this cup."
2. Jesus concludes with "Nevertheless, not what I want, but what You want."

- ◆ Peter grabs a sword and wants to fight!     ◆ Jesus takes the cup and wants to surrender!

### **And I discover something:**

- ◆ That when we surrender ourselves to God when there is a cup we cannot change, we receive the power in prayer that we need to embrace the cup we face! (Repeat)

### **Notice Verse 39**

"Jesus went away and prayed these words again a second time."

- ◆ Quit beating yourself up when the answer is delayed.
  - ◆ In Matthew 26:44, "Jesus went away again and prayed the third time, saying The same words."
- (Quit beating up yourself over things you cannot change.)

## **III. The Prize of the Garden**

**Question:** What happens to you when you pray like Jesus in your Gethsemanes?

**Answer:** Your reward is great indeed:

### **Write these down:**

1. **Courage to face your tomorrows**
  - ◆ Jesus knew He would be betrayed, arrested, scourged and crucified.
  - ◆ But in the crisis, He prayed and kept on going with calmness.
  - ◆ He didn't hide from Judas, He faced His trouble head on!
  - ◆ His courage enabled Him to face His tomorrows.
2. **Persistence to pray until**
  - ◆ Jesus prayed with perseverance and intensity.
  - ◆ Jesus prayed the second time and the third time.
  - ◆ Jesus wrestled in prayer until the breakthrough came within His own heart.

### **What else in prayer?**

3. **Strength from God Himself**
  - ◆ The Father gave Jesus strength to go on.

- ◆ Jesus prayed alone, to show His disciples where His strength came from.
- ◆ God Himself will enable you to drink any cup that He places in your hands.
- ◆ Luke 22:43, "There appeared an angel from heaven to strengthen Jesus."

4. **Resignation of your will to God's will**

**Question:** What brought Jesus through His darkest hour?

**Answer:** Resignation of His will to Father's will, in prayer!

- ◆ Proper decisions while under pressure,
- ◆ Victory won because of resignation of His own will.
- ◆ Rising from prayer and walking out of the garden, in faith (not fear).

**Question:** How does your garden affect your decisions?

1. The garden teaches us to pray and depend upon God (not ourselves).
2. The garden teaches us to choose to surrender to the will of God (there's no other road to joy in life).
3. The garden teaches us to pray 1, 2, and 3 times for the same request (it's okay to pour out your heart to God).
4. The garden teaches us how to come forth victorious as Jesus came forth (rising from your knees to face whatever is before you).
5. The garden teaches us how to prevail under pressure by running into the arms of our Heavenly Father.

**Question:** What is so encouraging about the disciples falling asleep (instead of praying) in the garden?

**Question:** What is so encouraging about their failure and weakness?

1. Jesus doesn't dismiss them and write them off.
2. Jesus picks them up to start over again.
3. Jesus is saying that guilt and self-blame are out and over with.
4. Jesus says to them and us:  
"Get up, get over and get on with life – I haven't given up on you at all!"

- ◆ Jesus forgave His disciples who failed and Jesus will forgive you if you'll truly repent!

AMEN!  
Bill Kirk