

watch.” What do we make of Jesus the Master, the very **Son of God**, who calms the wind and waves with a spoken Word, now exclaiming, **“My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death.”** We have to understand the great sorrow and **agony** that **Jesus** is facing realizing that soon He will become the **sin bearer** and experience the **horrific plight** of **bearing the wrath of God** toward sin, in fact, all the **sins** of all **God’s people** for all ages. The rift of **separation** from the **Father**, and the darkness of the **Son’s experience** of being **forsaken** by the **Father** who has **eternally loved Him**, is more than He can **contemplate** as He looks upon the soon coming reality.

Psalm 22:1-2 - 1 My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. 2 O my God, I cry by day, but Thou dost not answer; And by night, but I have no rest. NASB

And more, this **Holy Son of God**, in all His purity and majesty, in His sacred **hatred of sin** and His **Holy repulsion** at the thought of it, must **Himself become sin** on our **behalf** (2 Cor 5:21). Indeed, it is **impossible** for us to try and grasp what Jesus is thinking about that has moved Him to this **great stress**. He is fully aware of what the **hours ahead** hold for Him, and it surely is not the merely the physical suffering of the **beating** and **crucifixion** that troubles Him, but rather the consequences of bearing the pain of **separation** from the **Father** that has **“deeply grieved”** Him **“to the point of death.”** Isaiah wrote of this **“anguish of soul”** that He would face.

Isaiah 53:10-11 - 10 But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. 11 **As a result of the anguish of His soul,** He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, **As He will bear their iniquities.** NASB

Suffice to say that here is our **beautiful Savior** now **facing** that dreadful hour. He realizes that He will soon be left **all alone** as His disciples will all **abandon** Him. And **alone** He must go into the hands of fierce and wicked men, who will indeed **brutally beat, torture, and crucify Him**. Jesus the man will have to become that guilt offering Himself, and **He must** go there down the way of **suffering**, alone, despised and **rejected**. The horror of **abandonment**, the pain of torture and flogging, the shame of nakedness and the mocking of wicked men, these will indeed be terrible. But nothing in comparison to the **pain** He will **experience** as He **bears the Justice** of the **Holy God** for **sin**. The hymn writer tries to help us see. **Stricken, smitten and afflicted**, 1804, Thomas Kelly.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning

Foes insulting His distress
Many hands were raised to wound Him
None would interpose to save
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave

Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly
Here its guilt may estimate
Mark the sacrifice appointed
See who bears the awful load
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed
Son of Man and Son of God

Dear Reader, see in this very **distressing** and deep **anguish of soul** in our Savior **Jesus**, the amazing and **sacrificial love** that He has for me and for you! Facing unimaginable horror in just a few short hours, He seeks the Father in prayer **grasping** for some **possible way** that it might happen a different way. **“35 And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground, and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. 36 And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for Thee; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what Thou wilt.”** Notice that Jesus **“fell to the ground.”** Apparently, the **weight** of what He is **facing** is so **crushing** that He falls to the ground in His great distress. Marvel here at the **man of sorrows** carrying the great weight of **human guilt** to the Cross and being **crushed** by the **anguish** and **grief** of it. See here also the **hideous nature** of **sin** and its awful and repulsive weight of ugliness **bearing down** on the sinless Son of God as **He carries** our **griefs** and **sorrows** to Calvary. As Jesus becomes a curse for us (Gal 3:13) in the sight of God, He will face the **peculiar** and mystifying **separation** from **God** that must take place, and there will be **no other way** that our great salvation can be accomplished but this. This is so clearly see in the fact that even as **Jesus prayed**, **“that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by,”** yet this was a prayer that the Father was **not inclined to answer**, but instead the heavens became **silent** on this most grievous and **troubling moment** for our Lord.

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This is further amplified by Jesus words, **“All things are possible for Thee; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what Thou wilt.”** Yes, all things are possible for God, including the **salvation** of **sinful humanity**, but that

can only be accomplished by **one means** and one means only, the **sinless** Son of God **bearing** the **guilt** of **humanity** to appease the **wrath** of **God** toward human sin to be full payment for perfect **divine justice**. See here the **awful** and **costly price** of our **salvation**. Our Lord must bear the sins of all humanity and take it to face the fierce judgment of Almighty God, **alone** He will be **crushed for us**, and in our place. See our Lord, the Heavenly **God-man** come down to earth to **humble Himself to death**, even death on a **cross**.

Philippians 2:5-8 - 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,** even death on a **cross**. NASB

And take note the words, “**yet not what I will, but what Thou wilt.**” Here is perfect **submission** to the **will** of the **Father**, even at the cost of death and the horrific curse of separation from the Father. And here a great lesson for all of God’s people. JC Ryle comments; *We can imagine no higher degree of perfection and that which is here set before us. To take patiently whatever God sends, to like nothing but what God likes, to wish nothing but what God approves, to prefer pain, if it please God to send it, to ease, if God does not think fit to bestow it, and to live passive under God’s hand, and know no will but His: this is the highest standard at which we can aim, and of this our Lord’s conduct in Gethsemane is a perfect pattern.*” **End quote.** Marvel at the **obedience** of the **Son** and then let us ever strive to **follow Him** on this path of suffering and sublime and happy consent to God’s will above our own. Ryle continues; “*Let us daily pray, and endeavor to being able to modify our self-will. It is for our happiness to do so. Nothing brings us so much misery on earth as having our own way.*” **End quote.** Another clear and obvious application for us is that **Jesus** here **shows** His disciples that when they find themselves in deep **trouble**, they are to **go to God** in **prayer**. Let us always run to the **shade** of **prayer** and place our **trust in God** when we find ourselves in grief or in **trouble**. As Jesus faces the soon coming hour of darkness, He seeks the alertness and awareness of His friends, yet is met again with their human weakness. “**37 And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?** Here in our Lord’s distress and longing to find **help** from **comrades** in arms, yet we can hear the disappointment in **His voice**. And Oh how we in our weakness, wishing we could **please the Lord** instead, identify with Peter’s weakness! **38 "Keep watching and praying, that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."** And here we see the great human struggle in doing the will of God, “**the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**” Always