

Sermon Notes for July 31, 2016

**Sermon Series on Questioning  
God In Our Trials  
“What Do You Do When God Says No”  
Luke 22:39-47a**

**Introduction**

**A. Today, We Conclude Our Sermon Series On “Questioning God In Our Trials”**

1. As believers, we need to realize that trials are a part of our Christian experience
  - a. after all, Jesus Himself said in **John 16:33** – **“In this world, you will have trouble.”**
  - b. but, we, as believers, essentially go through trials because God wants to transform our lives
    1. **Hebrews 12:5b-6a** – **“My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves.”**
    2. the fact that God is training you through trials and discipline actually **PROVES** that He loves you and is raising you as His child.  
**Vs. 8** – **“If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.”**
    3. don't we all see what a lack of discipline does in the life of children?
2. and, as we have said; there are all kinds of ways that God tries us:
  - a. **because** of our own sin
  - b. **because** others sin against us
  - c. **because** God simply wants to teach us something
3. **BUT, LOOK AT GOD'S ULTIMATE REASON FOR TAKING US THROUGH TRIALS**  
**Hebrews 12:10b** – **“but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness.”**
  - a. God does not merely want to change us
  - b. He wants to make us “like Him,” to be holy
  - c. now, let me ask you; what “kind” of person were you when you were first saved?
    1. were you holy?
    2. you **know** that you were not holy; therefore, God had a lot of work to do, and He still does, to make you holy

**B. Today, We Look At What Happens To Believers When God Does Not Deliver You From A Trial**

1. we may say:
  - a. “God, why are you letting me go through this trial?”
  - b. “God, when will this be over?”

- c. **“IS THERE ANOTHER WAY THAT I CAN LEARN THIS LESSON?”**
- 2. **TODAY, WE WILL SEE THAT GOD DID NOT ANSWER THE REQUEST OF HIS VERY OWN SON!**
  - a. **WHEN HIS SON WAS FACING THE GREATEST TRIAL OF HIS LIFE**
  - b. and His Son asked His Father, if there was “another way”
  - c. His Father did **not** answer His Son’s request
  - d. so, you see, you are not the only person that God said no to

## **I. Jesus’ Usual Retreat**

### **A. The Need For Jesus To Spend Time With His Father**

- 1. It was very common for Jesus to spend extended time with His Heavenly Father throughout His life and ministry
  - a. Jesus would often spend special times in prayer with His Father when He faced big decisions:
    - 1. the choosing of the twelve disciples
    - 2. before He faced His death on the cross
  - b. but, there were other times when the Son personally met with His Father
- 2. But, what is most interesting is that Jesus often met with His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane
  - a. this location apparently was very private
  - b. some believe that Jesus often spent the night in this grove of olive trees
  - c. obviously, it was a very familiar place for Jesus  
**John 18:1-2** “When He had finished praying, Jesus left with His disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. **On the other side there was an olive grove, and He and His disciples went into it.**”
  - d. look at what **Luke 22:39** says, “Jesus went out **as usual** to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him.”
    - 1. did you see the words, “as usual”?
    - 2. the words mean:
      - a. as was His custom
      - b. per His prescription
      - c. **KJV** – “As He was wont.”
    - 3. obviously, going to the Mount of Olives to be with His Father “was the custom of Jesus”

### **B. The Need For Believers To Spend Time With Their Heavenly Father**

- 1. If Jesus Christ spent personal time with His Heavenly Father, what does that tell you as a believer?

- a. why would Jesus Christ “need” to spend time with His Father?
  1. I thought Jesus Christ “knew everything that the Father knew”
  2. wouldn’t that be like “talking to yourself?”
- b. obviously, Jesus had a “need” to talk to His Father because it was a consistent part of His “usual” regimen
2. So, if Jesus Christ “**needed**” to spend personal time with His Heavenly Father, **DON’T WE AS BELIEVERS NEED TO DO THE SAME?**
3. if you look how and why Jesus’ spent time with His Heavenly Father, we should never spend time with the Lord out of guilt or achievement; it should, like Jesus, simply be a time of getting to know God better
  - a. in your personal, devotional time, do not focus on your obligation to “have” a quiet time; to check that off of your “list”
  - b. instead, focus on building a deeper relationship with your Heavenly Father

## II. Jesus’ Unusual Reaction

### A. Jesus Had A Different Purpose In Spending Time With His Father

1. IN THIS TEXT, Jesus knew that His “time had come”
  - a. Jesus knew that **THE ONE PURPOSE** for His coming to this earth was at hand
  - b. for, Jesus knew that He was not on this earth merely to teach and be a model to others
  - c. instead, Jesus knew that He was sent to this earth for **one overall purpose**; to die on the cross for the sins of mankind
2. and, the time had arrived for Him to die
  - a. it was the time of Passover in Israel
  - b. and, whereas, Jesus had observed some 32 Passovers with His family and His disciples
  - c. it was time for **HIM TO BE THAT PASSOVER LAMB!**
    1. it was time for Him to be offered as **THE SACRIFICE**
    2. it was time for Him to die in the place of sinful man

### B. Jesus Had A Clear Understanding Of Why He Was On This Earth

1. Jesus knew clearly about all of the Old Testament prophecies about His death on the cross
  - a. **Psalm 22:16-18** – “Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, **they have pierced my hands and my feet**. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.”
  - b. **Isaiah 53:4-5** – “Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. **But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.**”

2. there was no confusion at all in Jesus mind that He would be killed as well as how He would be killed; **LOOK WHAT HE TOLD HIS DISCIPLES!**
  - a. **Mark 8:31-32** – “He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, **and that He must be killed and after three days rise again.** He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ”
  - b. **Mark 10:32-34** – “They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. **Again** He took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to Him. "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. **They will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles, who will mock Him and spit on Him, flog Him and kill Him. Three days later He will rise.**"

### C. However, It Finally Hit Jesus Himself About What Was About To Happen To Him

1. please note that Jesus must have feared, as a human, what was going to happen to Him **physically**
  - a. to be beaten by the Romans
  - b. to be crucified on a cross
  - c. It was “as if Jesus knew **EXACTLY** what was about to happen to Him before it actually happened. Consider the death of **Joachim Murat**, Marshal of France and King of Naples under Napoleon, who was sentenced and executed by his captors. As **Gay Talese** recounts it:

On the day of his death, Murat had a shock of his hair cut off and asked one of the Officers to enclose it with a letter he had written to his wife, Napoleon’s sister, and his children, who were then all living in Italy. Murat then took off his watch and gave it to the Officer as a gift. But, before he parted with the watch he removed from its lid a tiny carnelian stone on which was carved a portrait of his wife. Murat held this stone tightly in the palm of his hand as he followed the soldiers out to the courtyard where they were preparing to kill him. The Sergeant of the firing squad offered Murat a chair but Murat said he wanted to die standing up. The Sergeant offered to cover up Murat’s eyes with a cloth but Murat said he wanted to die with his eyes open. **“I do have one request,”** Murat said; **“I have commanded in many battles and now I would like to give the word of command for the last time.”** The Sergeant granted his wish. Murat then stood against the wall of the castle and called out in a loud voice: **“Soldiers, form line.”** Six soldiers drew themselves up to within about ten feet of him.

**“Prepare arms—present.”** The soldiers pointed their muskets at him. **“Aim at the heart, save the face,”** Murat said, with a little smile.

And then, after he had held up his hand to look for the final time at the carnelian stone showing the portrait of his wife, he issued his final command – **“Fire!”**

2. despite the physical anguish that Jesus was about to face, I believe that Jesus was **more concerned** about what was going to happen to Him **spiritually**
  - a. Jesus knew **Isaiah 53:6** – “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; **and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**”
  - b. Jesus knew **Isaiah 53:10** – ““Yet it was the LORD's will **to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the LORD makes His life a guilt offering,**”
  - c. what Jesus feared the most was this:
    1. it was **not** the physical torment of the beating and the cross
    2. instead, it **was** the spiritual torment of Him having our sins laid upon him.
      - a. the way that Jesus would die on the cross on our behalf was not only to die in our place
      - b. Jesus would die in our place because God the Father would “place” all of the sins of the world on Jesus as He was dying
      - c. Jesus Christ had never “known sin” during His life on this earth
        1. Jesus had enjoyed pure holiness and a perfect relationship with His Father
        2. but, on the cross, Jesus would not merely taste sin, **HE WOULD ACTUALLY BECOME SIN!**

### III. Jesus' Unusual Request

#### A. Jesus' Unusual Posture

**Vs. 41** – “He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, **knelt down and prayed,**”

1. as Jesus entered the Garden of Gethsemane, He was overwhelmed with what was about to happen to Him
  - a. **HE EVEN ASKED HIS DISCIPLES TO PRAY FOR HIM!**
    1. you have to wonder if Jesus ever did that before
    2. what a lesson we have here; **BELIEVER, ASK FELLOW BELIEVERS TO PRAY FOR YOU IN TIMES OF NEED! JESUS DID!**
    3. if Jesus Christ sought the prayers of other believers, **SHOULDN'T YOU DO THE SAME?**

- b. and, then Jesus went “a stone’s throw” from His disciples into the Garden to pray
  - 1. **Mark 14:33-34** – “He took Peter, James and John along with Him, **and He began to be deeply distressed and troubled.** My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch.”
  - 2. the clear sense of this situation was that Jesus was about to have a heart attack from all of the stress!
  - 3. in fact, look at **Luke 22:44** – “And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, **and His sweat was like drops of blood falling on the ground.**”
    - a. this speaks of a medical term called **hematidrosis**
      - 1. when a person is under tremendous stress, possibly facing death, this occurs when blood vessels, that feed the sweat glands, rupture causing them to exude blood
      - 2. this condition is extremely rare and most Doctors have never seen a case of it in their practice
    - b. so, needless to say, Jesus was under extreme “duress”
      - 1. you may say, what was Jesus worried about?
      - 2. isn’t He God in the flesh
      - 3. yes, He is God in the flesh
        - a. totally God
        - b. BUT. . .ALSO, totally man
- 2. as we look closely at parallel passages, we learn that, as Jesus entered the Garden, He fell on his face from all of the stress facing Him
 

**Mark 14:35a** – “Going a little farther, **He fell to the ground and prayed** that if possible the hour might pass from Him.”

  - a. I think we will miss what is happening here if we think that Jesus merely walked into the Garden, knelt down and took a posture of prayer
  - b. more than likely, Jesus ran into the Garden and fell on His face and began to pray
    - 1. because the typical Jewish posture of prayer was to stand with their hands in the air
    - 2. instead, Jesus, full of fear and dread, fell on His face before His Father
  - c. you get the sense that Jesus had a hard time even walking

## B. Jesus' Unusual Proposition

### Vs. 42a – “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me;”

1. in all of the times that Jesus had spent with His Heavenly Father, you must believe that Jesus had **NEVER** asked His Father to change His mind about a matter
2. instead, you must believe that Jesus **ALWAYS** agreed with the plans of His Heavenly Father: . . .until now
3. however, at this time, Jesus asked His Heavenly Father **TO CHANGE HIS MIND!**
  - a. “Is there any other way to do this?”
  - b. “Do I really have to become sin on the cross?”
  - c. “Can you find another way to solve this problem?”
  - d. **JESUS DID NOT WANT TO DRINK “THIS CUP!”**
    1. the cup was a “cup of wrath”
      - a. **Isaiah 51:17** – “Awake, awake! Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the **LORD the cup of His wrath**, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes men stagger.”
      - b. **Jeremiah 25:15** – “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: “**Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.**”
    2. **Kent Hughes** – “Jesus’ plea to “take this cup from me” was grounded in the fact of His absolute sinless purity, and the fact that the cup was filled with sin and wrath. **The cup was steaming with a brew that was so awful, so fearful, so dreadful, so unbearable, so appalling, so horrendous that Jesus’ soul was revulsed and convulsed. How could He drink such filth? How could He bear His Father’s wrath?”**

## IV. Jesus' Unique Response

### A. Jesus Revealed His Concern

1. **PLEASE NOTICE THAT JESUS WAS BRUTALLY HONEST ABOUT HIS STRUGGLE WITH HIS HEAVENLY FATHER**
  - a. I spend time with so many Christians who don’t feel as if they can be “honest” with God about their struggles
    1. they think that it would be unholy or rude or presumptuous to honestly talk to God about their personal struggles
      - a. as if one can “hide” his true feelings from God
      - b. as if God does not already know your feelings  
**BETTER THAN YOU DO!**

2. however, what do you see Jesus doing?
  - a. He is physically upset as He fell on His face before His father
  - b. He is emotionally upset as He begs His Father
- b. Jesus Christ actually models for us **how** believers are to approach God when we are going through times of struggle
  1. first of all, don't deny your physical or emotional feelings
    - a. Jesus did not deny His struggle
    - b. and, neither should you
    - c. like Jesus you may actually fall down on the floor and weep
  2. talk directly to your Heavenly Father, honestly and directly
  3. **SPEAK TO YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER JUST LIKE JESUS DID!**
    - a. in **Luke 22:42**, Jesus called God "Father"
      1. the greek word **pater**
      2. a term for endearment
    - b. however, in **Mark 14:36**, Jesus said to Him, "**Abba, Father**"
      1. this term ABBA was much more personal than pater
      2. for, this was and is the term used by children in the Middle East to refer to their own father
        - a. it is the most endearing term that a child can use to refer to their father
        - b. for, it is the term, **DADDY!**
        - c. in a sense, Jesus was screaming out to His Heavenly Father, "**Daddy, help me!**"

## **B. Jesus Revealed His Commitment**

**Vs. 42** - "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; **yet not my will, but yours be done.**"

1. **AND, YET.** . . . despite Jesus' physical and spiritual concerns and dread about what He was about to face
2. He said, "Ultimately, this is not about "my" will but about the will of my Father"
  - a. Jesus could have used all kind of reasons why He should not suffer
  - b. Jesus could have had an extended argument with His Father about why He should not have to die on a cross
3. **BUT, AS SOON AS JESUS ASKED HIS FATHER TO FIND ANOTHER WAY: HE THEN SAID: "YET, NOT MY WILL BUT**

## YOURS BE DONE!”

- a. **THIS IS WHAT SETS JESUS APART**
  1. yes, He **was** honest about His concerns and fears
  2. **BUT, ULTIMATELY, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, JESUS WANTED TO DO HIS FATHER’S WILL, NOT HIS OWN!**
  3. Jesus Christ was **THE MODEL** of sacrificial ministry of dying to self and of living His life as a servant to others
- b. therefore, Jesus is **THE MODEL** of how we are to deal with our struggles
  1. yes, it is normal to struggle during hard times
  2. but, to submit to it to the glory of God

## V. The Father’s Undeniable Response

### A. The Father DID NOT Change His Mind

1. you would have thought that the Father would have explained to Jesus why He did not answer His son’s prayer
2. however, we see no attempt by His Father to explain anything to His Son

### B. The Father Did Continue His Plan

1. in fact, please notice **Luke 22:47a** – “While He was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man **who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them.**”
  - a. **RIGHT AFTER JESUS’ PRAYER TIME WITH HIS FATHER, LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENS:**
    1. **JUDAS ISCARIOT WAS LEADING A GROUP OF SOLDIERS INTO THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE TO ARREST JESUS!**
    2. it was as if this was a play and as if on cue, after the soliloquy of JESUS WITH HIS FATHER, JUDAS WALKS ON TO THE STAGE!
    3. there is no break, no pause, no time for Jesus to process His time with His Heavenly Father!
  - b. it was as if the Father was saying to His Son; “**Son, here is the answer to your prayer;**”
    1. they are here to arrest you
    2. to take you to the cross
2. **IS THERE ANY DOUBT THAT THE FATHER DID NOT ANSWER THE PRAYER REQUEST OF HIS SON?!**
  - a. the Father did **not** find another way
  - b. the Father did **not** create another solution
  - c. **THE SOLUTION** would be the same as was prophesied that HIS BELOVED SON WOULD DIE ON THE CROSS FOR THE SINS OF MANKIND!

## Conclusion

1. Have you ever asked your Heavenly Father for something, only to be turned down?
  - a. my call to be a Pastor in Mississippi
  - b. my call to plant a church in Knoxville, TN
  - c. **HOWEVER, I PRAISE GOD FOR HIS NOT ANSWERING MY PRAYERS IN BOTH OF THESE CASES**
    1. small town church
      - a. Godly Pastors for some 150 years
      - b. Godly elders
      - c. a love for the Word of God
      - d. a love for missionaries
      - e. my need to learn about the Bible
      - f. my need to learn how to preach God's Word
      - g. my example of what this church in Knoxville should be like
    2. Knoxville, Church Plant
      - a. so different that what I had done before
      - b. entrepreneurial ministry – perfect for me
      - c. to plant a church based on the Word of God
      - d. where our family, including me, has flourished
2. **YOU HAD BETTER PRAISE GOD THAT THE HE DID NOT ANSWER HIS SON'S REQUEST!**
  - a. otherwise:
    1. Jesus would **not** have died on the cross and become a sin offering for you
    2. there would be **no payment** for sin for you
    3. and, would spend eternity in hell
  - b. **BUT**, because God **did not** answer His Son's request
    1. Jesus, instead of you, died for your sins
    2. and, because Jesus died for your sins
      - a. the wrath of God does **not** rest on you
      - b. you **have** peace with God
      - c. you **have** His Holy Spirit
      - d. and, you will spend eternity with Jesus and the saints;  
**FOREVER!**
  - c. **J. Vernon McGee – “He drank the bitter cup so that my cup would be sweet.”**

3. A portion of a poem by **Ela Wheeler Wilcox**

Down shadowy lanes, across strange streams,  
Bridged over by our broken dreams,  
Behind the misty caps of years,  
Close to the great salt fount of tears  
The Garden lies. Strive as you may,

You cannot miss it on your way.  
All paths that have been, or shall  
**Pass somewhere through Gethsemane.**

All those who journey sooner or later,  
Must pass within the Garden's gate;  
Must kneel alone in darkness there,  
And battle with some fierce despair.  
God pity those who cannot say  
"Not mine, but thine," who only pray,  
"Let this cup pass," and cannot see  
The purpose in **Gethsemane,**  
**Gethsemane, Gethsemane,**  
**God help us through Gethsemane.**