



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Jesus in the Garden!

Lesson Text: Luke 22:39-46; Romans 5:12-19

Focus Verses: Luke 22:41-42 - ⁴¹And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Truth About Covenant: Jesus was fully human and had to surrender to fulfill covenant.

Covenant Context: Adam disobeyed and broke covenant with God in the Garden of Eden, but Jesus obeyed the will of God in the Garden of Gethsemane and extended the new covenant to us. Much of the Old Testament and even the New Testament come to an apex as we see Jesus willingly kneel to carry the weight of the world's sins and sorrows.

If this story feels like we are coming full circle, we are. Everything started off in a garden, the Garden of Eden. In that garden, Adam sinned and broke covenant with God. God could have walked away from us, but He kept reaching for us. In fact, Paul recorded this contrast between Jesus Christ and Adam in Romans 5. The choices each one made influenced the history of humanity. Adam's choice to disobey God introduced sin into the world as well as sin's consequence: death. But Jesus' choice to obey and submit to the will of God introduced life into the world: abundant life and eternal life.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus exercised His power to choose by praying: "*Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done*" (Luke 22:42). Perhaps the devil thought he was going to defeat Jesus in this garden like he defeated Adam in another garden, but Jesus prayed; submitted His human will to the will of God; and conquered death, hell, and the grave. **And it all started with Jesus' choice to do the will of God.**

Some Christians have languished over how to know God's will for their lives. But we know and we do the will of God only through prayer. While we may make a pros and cons list before we make a decision, our first step ought to be Jesus' faithful steps: **prayer**. Only God knows what we ought to do, and He will order our steps if we will ask Him and faithfully walk with Him.

Luke reported: "There appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him." Jesus prayed so intensely that His sweat dropped like blood to the ground (Luke 22:44). When He returned to His disciples, He found them sleeping once again (Matthew 26:37-43). Their sorrow and weariness had sapped their strength and lulled them into sleep. Although Jesus was in the company of a few of His followers, He felt profoundly alone.

From the beginning, God created humanity with the ability to choose. Jesus is the only person who never exercised that choice in rebellion against God. His destiny included not only physical and emotional suffering but also that He, the only sinless person, would be made "*to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). The holy God of Heaven was about to carry all the sordid sins of all humanity of all time on Himself. **That is love.**

The most important decision we can make is to surrender to God's will. The same apostle Peter who slept in the Garden later wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost that God is "*not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9). God's will is for everyone to be saved. He carried your cross. He carried all your griefs and sorrows; He suffered for your healing; He died for your sins. **He had done everything He could do to save you, but He also gave us a choice.** We must choose to surrender our will to His so we can experience the salvation He purchased for us by surrendering His will to God.

When Jesus prayed His prayer in the Garden, He surrendered His desire to be comfortable, and even crowned King, to the will of God to lay down His life for the souls of all humanity. It would have been easier for Jesus to walk away—and none of us could fault Him. But He chose to die for us so we could one day live with Him.

You are right; that's not fair. But it is grace, and we thank God for it.