

A Place of Dependence

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[0 : 00] He had been preparing his disciples. They had witnessed him as he had come and set his face towards Jerusalem. You know, when we consider when Jesus was going towards Jerusalem, it was something unique.

As we remember back, he had set his face to go to Jerusalem because he knew what was going to happen there. He knew he was going to die upon the cross. He knew what was going to take place, but he went anyways.

He knew all that was going to happen and we find as he moved through the week and the picture he presented during the last Passover painted a picture of one that we can remember the hope that he gives to us.

Because what Jesus has done for us is something that gives us hope for it's only through what he was about to accomplish here upon the cross that any of us could be redeemed.

And we're going to see here as the supper has finished and we remember as Judas had gone out to gather those as he betrayed him and he had told the disciples that they would depart from him, that they would go away, they would abandon him on what was to come.

[1 : 15] And we know that all these things and as they depart from the upper room and Jesus and his disciples are walking through Jerusalem with the eleven towards a place where he would give some very important final lessons.

And we're going to look at some of that this morning of the lessons he gave. But you know, when we think about all the things that took place while he was walking between where he, they exited the upper room and to where he arrived at the garden with the disciples, there was a lot of things Jesus said to his disciples.

You know, I want you to understand that Mark kind of gets, skips some things along the narrative, okay? And so, but you know, you find in John chapter 14 through 17 and you know, I talked about that a little bit last week and hopefully you took some time to read that.

If not, I encourage you to read that of what Jesus was doing because he reminded them of some very important things. The need to abide in him as the true vine. You know, we see here that knowing that we're going to have a comforter that he's going to give to us the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells them about what, that he's going to be there that they might have peace in the midst of trials and tribulations. You know, all these things Jesus covered and was talking to them as they enter into the garden of Gethsemane that night into a place of dependency.

[2 : 40] You know, when we realize the need at the garden that we're going to see here even in the life of Jesus, but I think as we look at this we see it's also Jesus is still teaching his disciples something very important that even applies to us.

The reality of dependence upon God. The reality of depending upon him for all that he's done. And so if you found Mark chapter 14 this morning, let's stand together in honor of the reading of the word of God.

We'll pick up here in verse 32 here this morning. And it says, And they came to a place which was called Gethsemane. And he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, why I shall pray.

And he taketh with him Peter and James and John and began to be amazed and to be very heavy. And saith unto them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful unto death. Tarry ye here and watch.

And he went forward a little and fell on the ground and prayed if it were possible the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee.

[3 : 47] Take away this cup from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what thou wilt. And he cometh and findeth them sleeping and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou?

Couldst not thou watch one hour? Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

And again he went away and prayed and spake the same words. And when he returned, he found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. Neither wist they what to answer him.

And he cometh the third time and saith unto them, Sleep on now and take your rest. It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hand of sinners.

Rise up, let us go. Lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand. Let's pray. Heavenly Father, as we just come before you today, Lord, we just lift up the Word of God here today before you, Lord.

[4 : 47] It's your Word to do with as you would please. Lord, we pray just to have your hand upon the message here today, Lord, as we look at the reality of dependency upon you, just as you were dependent upon the Father, teaching the disciples the importance of it as we see this picture play out before us.

Lord, we pray that you just be with those not able to be here today or those joining us on the online or whatever the need might be, Lord. They might be encouraged and strengthened from the truth of your Word, Lord, that we might draw close to you.

And Lord, we just ask it all in your precious name. Amen. May you be seated. You know, as we see here, the garden that Jesus went to was a place that the disciples were very familiar with.

You know, they had stopped here many times. I imagine as you read through this and you read the description, I imagine as they went back and forth from Jerusalem, it was probably a place that they would stop and rest along the way and to the place where Jesus would often teach them or they would stop and rest and pray.

And we know from the picture we see here how they had stopped and were comfortable in this location. You know, of all the things that were going on, you know, Jesus tells us that the disciples fell asleep.

[6 : 12] And you know what that tells me? They were comfortable in a way with where they were. They were comfortable with what was going on around them. They were comfortable with their surroundings of where they were.

And they were there and they were soon to fall asleep. But Jesus knew this was a place also that Judas would be able to find Him.

You know, we often don't think why would Jesus want Judas to find Him? Well, remember, that was all part of God's plan that God laid it out. John chapter 18 tells us this in verse 2, And Judas also, which betrayed Him, knew the place for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with His disciples.

So in other words, Judas, it was so familiar that Judas said, Hey, if Jesus isn't there, I guarantee He's going to be over here. They knew where to find Him because He had been there many times with His disciples.

So the disciples, the eleven that night, I want you to see, were very comfortable in this location. It was a place they'd been many times. They'd probably heard Jesus teach them many things in this area where they went into the Garden of Gethsemane.

[7 : 21] And we're going to look at this a little more as we go through because we're going to see here that this was a place of instruction. You know, look here, it tells us that the eight disciples, look here in verse 32 with me, look what Jesus tells them.

It says, It came to a place which was named Gethsemane and He saith to His disciples, Sit ye here while I pray. Sit ye here. You know, while Jesus is preparing Himself for the task that was before Him, we're going to see here, I think He illustrates to His disciples really also what's required to face the challenges of life.

You know, Jesus was about to face the ultimate challenge that we can't even imagine what Jesus was faced with. We're going to see here the descriptors that Mark gives us are very heavy descriptions of what He was facing physically on that night and the things that He was enduring.

And Jesus, though, wanted them to see and He says, Sit here and watch. I want you to see here. You know, we're going to see in just a moment here and talk a little bit about instruction.

You know, oftentimes you sit when you're being instructed. You know? It's a place of instruction and we're going to see them learning these things because on the way to the garden, I want you to keep in mind that Jesus had prayed for them along the way.

[8 : 49] You know, we find, turn over to John chapter 17. We talked about that a little bit earlier about John 17. Notice what Jesus says. This is happening before they get to the garden. On the way, Jesus is instructing them and encouraging them, speaking to them, the Bible says in Proverbs.

In other words, He gives them illustrations and applications. You know, that's the reason it was the vine, that He is the vine and ye are the branches. It's a proverb to help us understand that we have to stay connected to Him.

You know, the reality of those things in life is important. But notice what Jesus says, I pray for them. He's praying to the Father. He says, I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine.

You know, think about what Jesus is saying. He says, Hey, I prayed for you guys because I know what's going to come. You know, you look a little later in John 17 in verse 13 and He says this, And now I come to thee and these things I speak in the world that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

I have given them Thy word and the world hath hated them because they are not of the world even as I am not of the world. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world but Thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

[10 : 04] They are not of the world even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth Thy word is truth. You know, I want you to see Jesus was preparing His disciples for what was to come afterwards.

And I believe in the garden not only was He doing something very important even for Himself physically but also as an illustration and example to the disciples because I'm going to tell you you're going to find times you're going to feel like the disciples did this night.

There's going to be some times in life that you're going to feel just like the disciples and you're going to need to be reminded to be instructed of what God would have and He's instructing them to sit once again.

I imagine the place they're sitting is a place they had sat many times. You know they'd sit in this place many times and heard many things from Jesus. I imagine they probably prayed together they had probably rested there they had done all sorts of things there as they would travel back and forth this was a place that would have been comfortable a place where Jesus taught them privately it was kind of a secluded place where He could get alone with them and instruct them and encourage them it was a place like I said where they felt secure enough it didn't take them long to fall asleep.

You know when you're in some place strange you ever notice you don't sleep well in some place strange? You know I don't know what it is but no matter what's going on even if you're exhausted you don't sleep well or don't feel like going to sleep necessarily in some place you're not comfortable.

[11 : 42] But the disciples being weary from the day had no problem going to sleep. It tells me they had a level of comfort where they were that was not just exhaustion but also they were comfortable about what was going on because I want you to understand often times you see all sorts of pictures of the Garden of Gethsemane and you got all sorts of ideas but simply I want you to understand it's not a garden like we think of today you know it wasn't a place where they would have flowers or plants of that nature it wasn't something that we would look at in that nature it was in the middle of the amount of olives and all the olive trees around the word Gethsemane literally means olive press in other words it tells us what was here where Jesus was it was the place that the olives were brought in from the surrounding trees and pressed to get the oil out of them in other words it wasn't used all the time but it was available and so I think that's one reason

Jesus used it because it was a convenient place that they could gather as a small group together to be able for him to encourage them and to instruct them just as he did this night and we're going to see here as a picture of as the olives would be pressed out that Jesus was going to be under some great pressure here this evening as we look at this evening in the garden and Jesus here he tells his disciples to sit and to watch but it also tells us he took three others he took Peter James and John a little farther into the garden you'll notice the next verse there what he says and it says in verse 33 and he taketh with him Peter and James and John and began to be sore amazed and was very heavy and he saith unto them my soul is exceedingly sorrowful unto death tarry ye here and watch tarry ye here and watch he brings these three a little farther into the garden in a place where they could see and they were singled out you know often times we might ask why did Jesus leave the eight in one place and brought three on in and we see this even playing out today because it seems they were leaders among the group they would see and hear things that that would serve them as they led the other disciples in the future

I want you to see here that Jesus gave these three a special ministry so they could help be used to help others to grow by the way I want you to understand God does the same thing today God brings people through different things to equip them for the service and the place that God has them he brings them through those things and and sometimes they're not easy but sometimes they're joyful remember it wasn't long before this that these three were up on the Mount of Transfiguration you know and witnessing Christ transfigured before their eyes with Elijah and Moses standing there I mean these three were the ones that went in when Jesus resurrected the young lady that they said was dead these are the three that went in and they saw those things and this evening Jesus takes them and draws them with him for that very special ministry that God gives because he wants to put them in a situation where they can see and hear and understand some things that they might be able to teach others about

I believe his grace and the sufficiency that God has look over to Luke for a moment because Luke gives us a little picture into this Luke 22 we find here this morning that as Jesus earlier is talking to Peter Jesus gives us a little insight into this because notice the insight that he tells Peter it says and the Lord said unto him Simon Simon behold Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat but I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not and when thou art converted look at that last phrase strengthen who thy brethren in other words Jesus said hey what you're going through has a purpose what you're going through is going to be something that's going to help not only you but be able to help others also to be able to walk through those things and this night Jesus would teach his disciple what it means to rely upon the father in fulfilling his will and not our own will you know the pressure that Jesus felt here is very immense

I mean I don't think we realize when we look at what was going on here the weight of these things look at the description that we find here in the scripture it tells us in verse 33 that he taketh Peter James and John and he began to be sore amazed and to be very heavy in other words I want you to see here what was about to happen was weighing upon Jesus it had a weight that bore upon him physically you know when we're faced with challenges of life the weight of life seems to grab a hold of us doesn't it Jesus was all man and all God I want you to understand when he says he knows how we feel we know what we face I want you to know that Jesus knows where you are Jesus knows how to walk through those things because he's felt it you see it here in this passage as Jesus says he's feeling the weight and the burden of what is to come physically upon him

[17 : 40] I mean it was very difficult to walk through verse 34 says and he looks at his disciples and says that's exceedingly sorrowful unto death in other words he says the weight that's physically upon me because of the emotion and everything else weighing into this he's exhausted he's done physically it's wearing out I mean Jesus understood what it is to be tired but when you think about what he was carrying it puts a lot into perspective of our life when you consider he wasn't just carrying the trials and troubles that we might face but he was carrying we're going to see here a little bit we're going to talk about the fact he carried the weight of the sin of the whole world and all that that means and all that it implies upon him it was something only he himself could carry only God himself could put that weight upon himself

I want you to understand there wasn't a problem with him being God the problem was he was wrapped in flesh and his flesh was struggling and he knew and he could show his disciples at moments like this what you need to do how to overcome these things not only for himself but I believe that he's given us an illustration for today to understand we need his sufficiency you know Christ was about to face the weight of sin but you know often times we forget not only did he put sin upon himself he took the wrath of the father because of that sin also look over in 2nd Corinthians with me go to 2nd Corinthians chapter 5 2nd Corinthians chapter 5 verse 21 the Bible says this he hath made him to be sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him in other words what Jesus was experiencing here was the weight of sin of the whole world beginning to bear down because in just a few short hours he was going to face the reality of being the lamb that was slain the weight that was upon him you know can you imagine the way to the reality you know we have trouble struggling with our own sin our own life problems you imagine everybody who ever lived because I want you to tell you that what Jesus did was sufficient for everybody it was sufficient for anybody he took that weight of sin and put upon himself you say why was

Jesus flesh struggling the humanity the emotion the weight of what was about to transpire was becoming heavy upon him he was sore pained unto death the flesh the humanity of Jesus was struggling with that emotional and spiritual dynamic that was ahead you know it began to impact him even physically look over to Luke chapter 22 Luke chapter 22 you'll find here this morning it gives a description Luke does about what was going on as he was praying he goes this and in verse 44 of Luke 22 the Bible reveals he says being in agony he prayed more earnestly!

and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground the agony as Jesus went each time here three times it tells us he went and prayed faced with the reality of what was to come it not only was a burden emotionally but it was a physical burden that was upon him and the disciples were watching while they waited what was taking place they saw Jesus the one that they saw could do anything I mean you imagine what the disciples had seen Jesus do they seen him heal people I mean he even came strolling across the water you know it's like all the things they had seen him do to raise the dead the blind saw the deaf heard but this night was different this night the weight of sin not his sin but my sin and your sin was upon him the weight of sin was there it was a place though

I want you to understand that Jesus would now go a little further it was a place he intended to go not only for his need but for in the hour but for ours also notice what tells us in verse 35 and he went a little forward a little and fell on the ground and prayed!

[22 : 40] If it were possible the hour might pass from him and he said Abba father all things are possible unto thee take away this cup from me nevertheless not what I will but what thou wilt I want you to see here this was a place of intention Jesus wasn't here by accident Jesus didn't come to this place randomly this night when he went out and he brought the disciples into the garden it was a place of intention it was a place that he had set forth Jesus intentionally it tells us went a little farther into the garden to pray his intention was he knew yes being with the disciples letting them learn letting them understand what's happening and Peter James and John were definitely there where they could hear everything that Jesus was crying out it tells us in scripture he cried!

I want you to know whispering in prayer the Bible says he was on his face and he cried out the word used there is an audible reality of hearing something you could hear the agony in his voice as Jesus would cry out in this for his father to strengthen him to help carry the load to be willing to walk what needed to be because the place that Jesus is it would be a place that would require complete and perfect submission to the will of the father I want you to know that the intention of his prayer was not to avoid what was to come but to fulfill the purpose for which he came look over into Luke chapter 19 Luke chapter 19 and verse 10 tells us this the Bible says for the son of man has come to seek and to save that which are in the garden by accident he was here that night with intention many dynamics of that intention one was to teach to let the disciples know that if they're going to be able to serve

God to do what God would have for them in the future they needed to rely upon the father they need to rely upon God in those moments because it was going to go beyond what their flesh was able to handle when we understand what he came for Jesus never lost sight of the fact that he came to seek and to save that which was lost he came to seek and to save mankind who had turned against him and the only way that was going to be accomplished was as we read earlier that he would be made sin for us we see verse 36 plays out in earshot of at least Peter James and John if not the other disciples you know the Bible tells us in the other gospels he was about a stone throw away as he went a little further but I want you to see here as he cries unto him he says Abba Father all things are possible unto thee I want you to see!

hear Jesus this is what you might say is an intimate moment with the father the word Abba is the same thing when we said to call somebody dad you can be a father but there's a difference to be dad Jesus is calling out a very intimate term you know the Jews never used that term when replying to God that was not a common term they would use they would consider that almost a blasphemy!

to have that kind of relationship with God that you could come in and call him dad because there's difference because dad means there's this personal dynamic and attachment and Jesus has an attachment with his father that's not just generic in nature but it's close and it's intimate and it's personal and he's speaking to the father and he says take away this cup from me nevertheless not what I will but what thou wilt you know as you read through the other gospels you get a picture of what's happening here because when he says take this cup what's the cup he talking about that's the important question the cup he's talking about is the wrath of God that's going to be poured out on him when he is sin the very one he loves the very one he's intimately connected with is soon going to pour out his wrath upon him matter of fact we're going to see a little later that

[27 : 24] God actually turns away Jesus knew what was going to take place and it was heavy upon his heart what was taking place in the garden that day was heavy he understood the wrath that would be poured out upon sinners because of disobedience he was realizing he was going to take that upon himself but I want you to see here very important that last phrase notice what he says he says not what I will but what thou wilt what a picture when Jesus said it doesn't matter how my flesh!

is feeling it only matters what you would have turn over to Hebrews chapter 5 for a moment Hebrews 5 I believe describes what's happening right here Hebrews chapter 5 in verse 7 says who in the days of his flesh when he had offered up prayers and supplications was strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death and was heard in that he feared though he were a son yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him you know I want you to see here that Jesus he learned obedience by the things that he suffered he was giving a picture to the disciples even that day of the things that one day they were going to suffer and we're going to have to say I'm going to trust the father through it as the disciples reality of learning obedience to the father not based in how we feel but based in truth

Jesus said earlier in John 17 verse 17 he says sanctify them with thy truth thy word is truth it's the word of God that makes a difference and we see that Jesus here became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him what are they obeying they're!

the gospel of the revelation of Jesus Christ the death burial and resurrection that he took your sin and put it upon himself with all that means all the wrath of God abided on him but yet he went for you and for me Jesus was obeying the will of the father completing the plan for which he came you know think about Jesus whole life was wrapped up in that picture of doing the will of the father throughout the scripture you'll find John chapter 10 verse 17 tells us this it says therefore that my father love me because I lay down my life that I might take it up again no man taketh it from me but I lay it down on myself I have power to lay it down I have power to take it up again this commandment have I received of the flesh has problems but

I want you to understand by the spirit things can be overcome we're going to see as he talks to the disciples about this in just a little bit it's a hard lesson for us in life to realize the necessity of being about the father's business you know think about early in Jesus life Luke chapter 2 it says how is that you sought and needed to be strengthened by the father the knowledge of all that he was about to suffer physically must have terrified the fleshly mind when I'm talking about the flesh of Jesus I'm talking about his humanity nobody even Jesus he understood what he was going to face the struggle the pain the agony that's far beyond what we could even comprehend and he's painting us a picture he says but it's not the flesh it's the spirit it's the father that makes the difference he was not afraid of the pain of the cross but when you realize he was taking the weight of sin and judgment and was going to be abandoned by his own father what was a difficult thing to comprehend in the flesh in the body because you got to remember

[31 : 47] Jesus felt and was tempted in all points like as we are he you know what he's saying it's not based on just how I feel about it because we need to operate in the truth of the word of God Jesus has given an example to his disciples but it's also for his physical benefit that we're going to see here the reality of what was happened I want to also remind you that Jesus is at the point of death in the garden he says take a look what he tells him here he says I'm sorrowful unto death you say why did Jesus do that I believe Jesus physically was carrying the weight that was so much he said I'm not sure I'm going to make the body is going to make it but that wasn't the will of God for him to die in the!

we know that as we'll see here when Judas shows up is different than the one crying out to his father there's something that took place the spirit of God indwell and empowered him to move forward just as he does us today Jesus was desiring to finish the task he had been given by the father look down at verse 38 notice what he tells him here he finds the disciples sleeping verse 37 he says Simon sleepest thou couldst thou not watch one hour watch ye and pray lest you enter into temptation that word temptation is testing troubles problems that we have in life could all fit under that word but notice what he says the spirit truly is ready but what the flesh is what weak this is why we must watch and pray

Jesus is teaching even in this moment in his greatest need he had to care enough to look at Peter and say Peter hey this is what you're going to need you know what he's telling you and I in moments like this this is what you need what we need it's a place of intention because Jesus revealed to us that the flesh can be overwhelmed but you know what the power of God will provide what's needed you know I think one of the biggest fallacies we have that you know we have a lot of phrases that people say that are not biblical have you ever heard somebody say well God will not give you more than you can handle I'm going to tell you that's a lie you'll face things in life that's greater than you can handle but let me give you the good news the truth is you're going to have more than you can handle the truth also is God says he's going to be there to make up the difference when it exceeds what you can think you even possibly deal with God can step in and make a difference when our physical abilities die down God says

I can make the difference it's the power of God Jesus here is displaying the power of God in what he does look here at verse 41 it says he the hour is come behold the son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners now I want you to see verse 42 because 42 contrasts everything else Jesus looks at him and says hey guys get up something took place from exhausted and tired and burdened and Jesus says I set my face I am ready to go his time with the fathers strengthened the focus and put forth he was resting in the power of the father to overcome the test of the hour you know just as we need to seek the power that god promises us you know consider isaiah chapter 40 you know isaiah 40 in verse 29 the word of god tells us this he says he gives power to the faint and to them that have no might he increases strength even the youth shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall you know i think you have to get older to appreciate that you know i used to joke around you know that i used to say two things one you had time to sleep when you're dead and the other one was is that you know what's 72 hours you know i could stay up for days but you know what as you get older you find out that doesn't work so good you start to appreciate what's said there you can operate in the flesh for a while but you know what pretty soon no matter how young or energetic you are you're out and we need something more notice what it tells us but they that wait upon the lord that means to focus upon him just as jesus did in the garden he cried out to the father and said i need you i want to be connected i need this for them to know that this is what they need also they that wait upon the lord shall do what notice this renew their strength to renew what was needed the strength that they shall mount up with wings as eagles they shall run and not be weary they shall walk and not faint you know it's not our power our self-confidence that can overcome but it's the power of god that makes the difference look over in the book of ephesians for a moment ephesians chapter 6 you know whenever you see the word finally it means they're summing something up very important it's not like the preacher saying in conclusion finally my brethren be strong in what the lord and in the what the power of his might you know this morning we can be thankful for this glimpse into the events here in the garden of gethsemane you know what a joy to know that our savior took upon himself all these things a weight that's far exceeds what we could bear and he prevailed we're going to see this play out as we continue the reality of the victory uh through the cross the cross he paid the price and bore the weight of our sin and when he was buried there's no doubt that that sin was was carried with him and we're going to find that as he resurrected that he gives victory you know because it's not enough that he died it's the reality that he only paid it but he overcame it he's the one that fight fought the battle and he prevailed you know when we think of all that he endured for us that night it ought to have an impact upon us you know it ought to impact your heart towards god for what he did for you it ought to fill our hearts with praise it ought to want to make us to rejoice with song it ought to fill us with a desire to worship and to lift him up you know if we're like the disciples sometimes we can get just like them and we can be asleep get comfortable or maybe just exhausted but we need to trust the lord and to get up

and get busy for the lord it's an hour that calls for action it's not a time for god's people to sleep you know today we need to trust him that begins at the moment when one calls upon him as savior because you'll never experience the power of god until you meet him at the reality of the cross that he is the one that took your sin the price you had upon you upon himself when you call upon him you know i encourage you today if you're not sure to make sure to understand what it means to be forgiven and understand what he's done to overcome all that you need to be reconciled to god you know this morning has god spoken to your heart about your need to rely upon him the same way jesus gave us an example when he was feeling overwhelmed with the weight physically and emotionally he reveals to us we need to turn to the father he's going to strengthen and equip us to get up to rise up and let us go into the work his heads are bowed and eyes are closed this morning maybe god spoke to you i don't know what the need may be but you and the lord do if he's spoken to your heart today what are you going to do if you're not saved are you going to come to him if you know him as savior you're going to obey are you going to do what you ought to do not according to anything but what the word of god has to say not tradition not trusting in something else but trusting only in the savior and the word of god what about you today heavenly fathers we just come before you this morning lord we pray just have your hand upon each heart each life here today lord you know each one lord you know the burden that uh that comes upon us lord the realities of life lord that we know in moments such as that we must rely upon you and lord we just ask it all in your precious name as the piano plays what about you today andork