

Garden of Gethsemane - Part One

030403-2

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I would like us to think today about the Garden of Gethsemane. So many people have strange ideas about what really happened. I have found that when I hear people say, “Oh, Jesus did not want to go through with going to the Cross. You know, He was human like us, and you can understand what He went through,” I find I get a great pain within my heart. I believe it comes from the Lord Himself, because that was not what the Garden of Gethsemane was all about.

I think it is terribly important that we understand what it was for our Lord to go to that Garden, and to understand the bitter distress in the conflict. He was used to going to that place. It is actually at the foot of the Mount of Olives, you know if you have been there. It was an old oil press. It was a familiar place, where our Lord would go and retire from the heat and the burden of the day. Here Jesus would have the most sacred times talking to His heavenly Father. There He would know His strengthening and enabling to meet the tasks before Him who was sinless on this earth. Our Lord had already predicted His death and resurrection and was in absolute control of everything that was taking place. We read in **Psalm 2:2** that they took . . . **counsel together, against the Lord.** . . . In **Psalm 69:4 - They that hate me without**

a cause.

However, this night in the Garden was different. There was an oppressive atmosphere of the enemy. The cup of death to be faced and drunk was prophesied in **Isaiah 53:4 - Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. . .** There were terrible terrors in the conflict. Perhaps you have known something of satanic warfare and isolation and oppressiveness of the enemy. Jesus took the victory over the enemy on the Cross, but prior to going to the Cross, all hell was unleashed against Him. In **Psalms 18** we read -

4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. The Lord said, **(Now is the) hour, and the power of darkness. (Luke 22:53).** He was actually given up - our lovely Lord Jesus - to the assaults of that infernal host, that horrible company, that nameless terror. They fell upon Him; they tormented His holy soul, but know that whatever torture took place that night, it was taken care of by our Lord.

Some of you know something about oppression, depression, suggestions of suicide. You know that. Perhaps I am talking to you. Jesus went through that for you to set you free. Sin begets death, but the fruit of righteousness is life and peace. It was in the conflict of

what our Lord went through is described in **Lamentations 1:20**. He began to be sore amazed and His **heart was turned within** Him. We read in **Psalm 22:6 . . . I am a worm, and no man. . .** Yes, the Lord wept over the misery of the human race as He prayed and agonized for their redemption. Now, instead of nearness to His heavenly Father, there was pain and bitter distress. He sank in agony to the ground under the oppressive burden of His guilt, languishing, forsaken, horrified in the company of dark infernal spheres. The Lord said: **My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. . . (Matthew 26:38).**

What was the key to this conflict? It was obedience. . . . **Abba, Father, all things are possible with thee; take away this cup from me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what thou wilt. (Mark 14:36).** He wishes the removal simply on the condition, which is invariable with Him, that it should be in accordance with His Father's counsel and will. He says, . . . **if it be possible. (Matthew 26:39).** He does not, however, mean that in the general sense, for He has already said . . . **all things are possible unto Thee**, but only on the conditional possibility within the limits of the object for which He had appeared in the world. It was that cup, the present horrors, He spoke of, as the anguish of hell and what it meant on His spotless soul.

Beloved, our Lord went through that for you and me. He set His face to go to the Cross. All the filthy, evil, demonic powers came against Him,

and the energy and the power that went out from Him that He even dropped . . . **as it were, great drops of blood. . .(Luke 22:44)**. from his pours. He did it because He was on the way to the Cross in triumph, willing to take the crop of sacrifice and know even separation from an holy God when He did it because He told the Father . . . **not my will but thine, be done. (Luke 22:42)**. He did it for you. Will you say, *Yes, Lord, I thank You right now.*

In Jesus' Name. Do it for His glory. Amen.