To Seek and to Save #5 “Agony” Luke 22: 39-46

**Movement One** – Courage in the Face of Death

**Socrates** died in 399 BC He was in prison convicted of subverting the religious life of Athens. Sentenced to die by suicide, drinking Hemlock.

* He took the cup without trembling or changing color or expression; raised it to his lips, cheerfully & quietly drained it
* Friends burst into tears. He rebuked them and challenged them to “Keep quiet and be brave.” Died without fear.

**Stephen** was stoned. He lifted his gaze to heaven and saw the glory of God. He cried out “Lord receive my spirit! And do not hold this sin against them.” His violent death was like falling into a peaceful sleep.

**Ignatius** was the bishop of Antioch in Syria at the beginning of the 2nd century. He was taken to Rome to be executed and he begged the people to not interfere so as to deprive him of the honor.

* *Let fire and the cross, let the wild beasts, and all the malice of the devil come upon me; if only I may gain Christ Jesus*!”

**Polycarp** the bishop of Smyna was burned at the stake a few years later. He was 86 years old and refused the opportunity to flee or deny Christ. Just before the fire was lit he prayed,

* *O Father, I bless Thee that Thou hast counted me worthy to receive my portion among the martyrs*.”

Repeated even ***today*** by brethren around World.

Men and women facing rejection, shame, suffering and even death with courage, peace; and even joy.

Jesus said “***Blessed are you when people persecute you… Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great***!” (Matt. 5:11-12)

Peter was flogged, “***And he went on his way rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name***.” (Acts 5:41)

**Fact**: People, especially Christian people, have a remarkable capacity to anticipate, encounter and endure suffering --- emotional and physical suffering --- even death; with courage, peace and joy.

**t/s** - A Fact that poses a problem as we read about Jesus today.

**Movement Two** – Jesus is Struggling as He anticipates the Cross.

**Read Luke 22:39-46**

Luke repeated emphasizes how Jesus **Struggled** on eve of His Death.

1. ***The Place*** (40) – Gethsemane = olive press (heavy burden)
2. ***Temptation*** – Satan’s work.. a trial, a snare
3. ***Knelt down*** – submission and intensity (could not stand)
4. Angel’s Help (43) – He needed strength to continue
5. ***Agony*** – appalled reluctance… troubled, overwhelmed (Mt)
6. “Sleeping ***from Sorrow***” = that observed the Struggle of Jesus.
7. Sweat like drops of blood – physical impact of his anxiety

**ILL** – B. B. Warfield, Conservative Presbyterian Princeton (d. 1921)

 ***The Emotional Life of Jesus***; Gethsemane Emotions (synoptics)

* *Appalled reluctance, loathing aversion, despondency, mental pain and distress, horror struck… acute emotional pain as He looked with apprehension and terror at his future ordeal*.

***Jesus was in Agony as the shadow of the Cross fell upon Him.***

**t/s** – How do we understand the reality of His **Agony** in Gethsemane?

 Was Socrates more brave than Jesus?

**Movement Three – The Cup** (vs. 42)

The prayer is the focus. It reveals a struggle between Jesus’s embrace of the Father’s will and His revulsion at the anticipation of **The Cup**.

The Key is the meaning of ***The Cup***.

The Cup refers to ***physical***, ***mental*** or ***emotional*** suffering.

The Cup refers to “***Spiritual Suffering***” unique to Jesus Lamb of God.

*Gethsemane shows the terrors of the Cross more clearly that I see them when I come to Calvary*. G. Campbell Morgan.

***The Cup*** was the spiritual agony of bearing the sins of the world; enduring the judgment that those sins deserved.

In Old Testament, ***The Cup***, used of God’s Wrath on Sin:

 Ezek. 23:32; Jer. 25; Is.; **Ps. 75:8** – *God is the Judge…a Cup is in the hand of the LORD, …He pours out of this; surely all the wicked of the earth must drain and drink down its dregs*.

Jesus died a sin-bearing death; He was God-Forsaken. (read All)

 **Is. 53:4-5; Galatians 3:13**; **1 Peter 2:24** (stone’s through away)

1. **Praise Him Eternally**

*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss*

*To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?*

I Stand Amazed in the Presence of Jesus…

*He took my sins and my sorrows, He made them His very own;*

*He bore the burden to Calvary, and suffered and died alone*

1. **Trust Him Completely – *It Is Finished.***

1 John 2:2 – The Atoning Sacrifice for our sins! (confidence)