

## Famous Last Words

### How to die to yourself and please the LORD.

#### How to win.

#### Matthew 26:36-46

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." <sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." <sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup> "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." <sup>43</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. <sup>45</sup> Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

#### Set Up

Jesus was leading his disciples from the Passover Meal into the garden.  
 They had just eaten the last supper  
 Jesus had just washed their feet  
 Jesus announced Judas would betray him  
 Jesus announced Peter would deny him.  
 Jesus has just predicted his death  
 There are 11 disciples plus Jesus  
 Judas was already gone  
 He leads them to **Gethsemane**  
 What I hear the Lord saying in this season is "Follow Me"

**I. I will follow Jesus into the olive press.**

#### Matthew 26:36-38

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him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

**A. Unpack text**

1. Jesus is leading his disciples from the “last supper” to the garden.
2. They entered into Gethsemane.
  - a. Several times in scripture we see Jesus at this place in prayer.
  - b. It was full of olive trees.
  - c. This was a garden with olive trees along with a processing press for the olives.
3. At this point Jesus is very direct.
4. You can sense the seriousness of the hour.
5. Of the 11 he drops off 8 at the entrance.
6. He asks Peter, James and John to follow him further in.
7. At this point Jesus is noticeably disturbed.
  - a. Matthew says he was sorrowful and troubled.
  - b. Peter, James and John see this in Jesus.
  - c. They notice.
8. He turns to the trio and tells them, “my soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death”

**Gethsemane literally means – “oil press”**

- a. The weight of the situation is upon him.
- b. He knows exactly what is about to happen.
- c. He knows that in a short while Judas will come with his rebellion and seize Jesus.
- d. He knows that he will face the **religious**, **political** and **military** leaders of the day.
- e. The reason he was born is about to be fully realized.**

**B. Jesus knows he will be crucified.**

1. More than that, Jesus knows that he will take upon himself the sins of the world.
2. Every horrific sin you can imagine will be placed upon him.

**All of them.**

3. Not one of them will be left out.

**C. Every sin.**

1. Lie

2. Act of Revenge
3. Theft
4. Sexual sin
5. Racial prejudice
6. Greed that swindles the elderly out of every dime they worked their entire life for.
7. Every word of gossip.
8. Every hateful thought.
9. Every rebellious act.
10. Every **perversion** that entices the **pedophile** to violate children.
11. Every sin of murder committed in a violent reaction of the moment.
12. Every premeditated killing performed by serial killers to hunt and kill innocent people.
13. The genocidal sin of Adolf Hitler will be placed upon.

## **2 Corinthians 5:21**

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **Illustration**

Jesus was going to take upon himself every sin so that he could die with it.

Jesus would die with the sins of the world upon him.

So much so that 2 Corinthians literally says... For our sake Father God made Jesus to be sin.

## **Application**

- D. Jesus is overwhelmed to the point of death not because he was afraid to die.
  1. Jesus is overwhelmed to the point of death because of how and why he would die.
  2. He would die with every sin upon him and he would die a sinners death.
- E. Jesus had given up his rights and privileges of deity.
  1. He came from heaven itself into the earth.
  2. He came as a sinless man.
  3. He lived a sinless life – in total unity and oneness with the Father God.

## **John 5:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus answered them, "I tell you the truth: the Son can do nothing on his own; he does only what he sees his Father doing. What the Father does, the Son also does. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing...(GNT)

- F. Jesus was going to take the wrath of God.
1. He would receive the punishment intended for us.
  2. He said I will go in their place so they don't have to.

### **Application**

1. In order to go to the next level you must be willing to follow Jesus into the olive press.
2. If you are going to win or grow or change or mature as a believer you must follow Jesus into the olive press.

### **Illustration**

1. The olive press



2. The oil comes as a result of a crushing.
3. The crushing is a repetitive process.
4. Over and over and over again the weight of the stone would come over the top of the olives.
5. Squeezing and crushing. Squeezing and crushing.
6. Over and over and over again until all of the oil is crushed out of the olive only leaving oil.

### **Application**

1. The goal is not your discomfort – the goal is God's glory.
2. The goal is not to keep you down – the goal is that you would be set free.
3. The olive press will remove the pulp from the oil.
4. The olive press will crush the meat of the olive in order to remove the oil.
5. The goal is the oil – beautiful - God glorifying – self denying freedom.

When you follow Jesus into the olive press all that is not needed will be pressed out of you.

When you follow Jesus into the olive press all that holds you back will be crushed.

When you follow Jesus into the olive press you will come out with beautiful useful lasting oil.

Follow Jesus into the olive press.

**II. I will be vulnerable and transparent.**

**Matthew 26:39**

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

**A. Unpack**

1. Jesus is in the garden.
2. Peter, James and John are watching him.
3. He is so overwhelmed with the thought of sin being placed upon him he falls to the ground.
4. My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.
  - a. In the moment of being overwhelmed Jesus is reaching out to the Father.
  - b. I know that with you anything is possible – so if there is another way please make it happen.

**B. Jesus asked the Father if it were possible to have “this cup” taken from him.****Isaiah 51:17**

Jerusalem, wake up!

Rouse yourself and get up!

You have drunk the cup of punishment

that the LORD in his anger gave you to drink;

you drank it down, and it made you stagger.

- C. In the Old Testament, “cup” stood for the trial of suffering and the wrath of God (Isaiah 51:17).
  1. So Jesus referred to the suffering that he must endure as the “cup” he would be required to drink.
  2. Yet Jesus humbly submitted to the Father’s will.
  3. He went ahead with the mission for which he had come (1:21).
  4. However, he said that it was not his own will that he wanted but he wanted the will of his “Father”
- D. Jesus was not trying to get out of his mission.
  1. Jesus was expressing his true feelings as a human being, but he was not denying or rebelling against God’s will.
  2. He reaffirmed his desire to do what God wanted by saying, *Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will*. Jesus’ prayer reveals his terrible suffering.
  3. Jesus paid for sin by being separated from God.
  4. The sinless Son of God took our sins upon himself to save us from suffering and separation.

- E. Jesus was being vulnerable and transparent.
  1. He was pouring out his heart to God.
  2. Expressing everything he was feeling.

Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan. – John Bunyan

- F. God if there is any way take this cup from me.
  1. I don't know if I can go through this.
  2. I don't want to go through this.
  3. What is happening doesn't seem fair.
  4. Why is this happening to me?
  5. I don't like this.
  6. Take me out of this mess.
  7. Relieve this burden from me.
  8. I don't want to carry this burden.
- G. Yet, not my will but yours be done.
  1. The will of God is not promised to be an easy road.
  2. The will of God is promised to be the best road.

### **John 15:14**

And you are my friends if you do what I command you.

- H. There are times when God's will is difficult.
  1. What do you do then? What happens if it is not what you want?
  2. You still submit to it, because God has your best interests in mind.
- I. Jesus said, "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."
  1. Notice that He did not say, "You are My friends if you do whatever you agree with or find comfortable or pleasurable."

### **Illustration**

- David wanted to build a temple for the Lord, but that wasn't His plan for David, so He said no. And David listened.
- Jonah was told to go and preach to the Ninevites, but he didn't want to do that.
- So he went in the opposite direction. And we all know how well that turned out.
- Job struggled with the will of God when his family was taken from him.
- Yet he submitted to God's will, saying, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there.
- The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" ([Job 1:21](#))

- There is no greater example than someone submitting to the will of the Father than Jesus himself. He said, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done"
- Why did Jesus struggle with His Father's will?
- Because He would have to bear the sins of the world.

### **Application**

- In every believer's life, there will come a time when obedience overrules personal desire, when spirit becomes more important than flesh, when the glory of God is more important than our own glory and desires.
- So even if we don't understand the will of God, even if we don't always like the will of God, we must always submit to the will of God.

### **Illustration**

- What about you???
- What in your life right now is a circumstance where you say...
- God if there is any way for you to remove this please do it?
- I don't know if I want to do this... as a matter of fact I don't want to.
- Not my will but yours be done.

When you submit to the will of God his strength comes upon you to do what he asks you to do.

### **John 6:38**

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup> But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

### **III. I will crucify my personal agenda and desires and rely on the strength of the LORD.**

This is a spiritual battle

Understand you cannot do it on your own strength.

### **Matthew 26:40-41**

<sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup> “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

- A. Jesus comes back and finds them sleeping.
  1. Come on guys I really need you.
  2. **This time he says to watch and pray so that you don’t fall into temptation**
    - a. Jesus is warning them that they will face temptation and will need to be prayed up.
    - b. He recognized and tells them that their spirit might be willing but their flesh is weak.
    - c. The exercise of prayer strengthens both spirit and flesh.
    - d. You must feed the spirit to overcome the flesh.
  
- B. Jesus contrasts two things that sometimes oppose one another - spirit and flesh
  1. **“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”**
    - a. Many have interpreted “spirit” to mean the “human spirit.”
    - b. Thus, it would mean that while their spirit might be willing, their *flesh* would be weak.
    - c. Their inner desires and intentions would be, as they had previously boasted, to never deny Jesus and to die with him.
    - d. Their relationship with Jesus had made the disciples eager to serve him in any way possible.
    - e. Yet their human inadequacies, with all their fears and failures, would make it difficult to carry out those good intentions.

### **Psalms 51:12**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (NIV)

- A *willing* spirit is not enough; it must be supplemented by prevailing prayer.
- A *willing* spirit needs the Holy Spirit to empower it and help it do God’s will.

### **Illustration**

- Jesus used Peter’s drowsiness to warn him to be spiritually vigilant against the temptation he would soon face.
- The way to overcome temptation is to stay alert and to pray.
- This means being aware of the possibilities of temptation, sensitive to the subtleties, and morally resolved to fight courageously.

- Because temptation strikes where we are most vulnerable, we can't resist alone.
- Prayer is essential because God's strength can shore up our defenses and defeat Satan.

**More can be done by prayer than anything else. Prayer is our greatest weapon.**

- ***Billy Graham***

### **Application**

- During these times of prayer, the battle was won.
- Jesus still had to go to the cross, but he would humbly submit to the Father's will and accomplish the task set before him.

### **Luke 22:43-44**

<sup>39</sup> Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." <sup>41</sup> He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." <sup>43</sup> An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup> And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Jesus goes back a second time to pray  
He is once again by himself.