

Intro to Mark 14:32-42

Sunday, March 5, 2017
Pastor Don Denyes

When we think about the setting of a garden, there is something peaceful about it. Gardens represent peace and rest. The cultivation of the gardener requires uninterrupted time. Gardens do not flourish in a time of war because there are more pressing matters to attend to. But when there is peace, as human beings, we tend to cultivate places for enjoyment. In fact, one of the two words in the Greek translation of the Old Testament used for “garden” is where we get the English word, “paradise.” That is the word used in Genesis 2-3 to describe the Garden of Eden.

Yet, as we see in this passage in Mark 14, a garden represents a place of anything but paradise. It was in a garden that Jesus would face His greatest test. He would suffer terrible anguish as He anticipated bearing the wrath of God on behalf of His very enemies—people who failed to stand by Him even in His most difficult hour. It is in this suffering to the point of death on behalf of others that we see His love demonstrated. Jesus does not love in word only, but has loved us in deed and in truth.

Context

Jesus has finished the last supper with His disciples. He has now made His way, after dark, across the Kidron Valley into the Garden of Gethsemane, which is just opposite the eastern gate of the temple. This was a place known to all of His disciples, as He would often lead them there during their stays in Jerusalem. It was familiar enough, that one of the twelve, Judas, could confidently lead Jesus’ enemies to the exact spot as he betrayed Him into their hands. This marked the beginning of a trial and execution that would take place in the next 24 hours, but following His resurrection, would mark the beginning of a new era in the way mankind relates to God.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Mark 14:32-42

“Oh How He Loves You and Me”

*Emotion *groaning*

*Submission *praying*

*Frustration *reproving*

Discuss

- 1) Character is demonstrated through a person's actions. When you think about Jesus' experience in Gethsemane, how does that impact the way you think about His character? What about God the Father?

- 2) As a basic summary, it could be said that the Gospels provide the narrative of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, while the Epistles reflect on the meaning of those things and their significance for the life of the Church. Read Hebrews 5:7-9. What light does that shed on what happened in Gethsemane? What deeper meaning about the events of that night can we glean from this passage?

- 3) How does Jesus' actions in Gethsemane provide us an example of how to act in times of suffering? (See also 1 Peter 2:21)

- 4) Pastor Don quoted someone as saying, "A father's hand will never cause his child a *needless* tear." What do you think of that quote? How does it relate to God the Father's relationship to Jesus? What about His relationship to us?

- 5) The Christian life could largely be described as a life of gratitude in response to what God has done for us in the gospel. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. In what practical ways can you show your gratitude to God in light of what took place in Gethsemane?