

“His Final Day”
(The Garden of Gethsemane)
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

- * Sometime after 11:00 o'clock on Thursday night, Jesus and His disciples finish the Passover Seder.
- * As was the custom they concluded the meal by singing a hymn. We even have a good idea of what they sang!! The “Hallel” was selections from Psalm 113 to 118.

Mark 14:26

26 Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives

- * The people had even cried out part of the Hallel four days earlier!

Matthew 21:9

9 Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

“Praise God for the Son of David!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Praise God in highest heaven!” (Quoting Psalm 118:22)

- * Jesus also preached from the Hallel the last week of His life! He quotes Psalm 118:42!

Matthew 21:42

42 Then Jesus asked them, “Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures?

‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’

- I. As we observe Jesus taking part in Jewish custom, it makes one wonder if He drew comfort from some of these Psalms as His time drew near and during His visit to Gethsemane!

Psalm 118:5-6

5 In my distress I prayed to the Lord, and the Lord answered me and set me free. 6 The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?

13 My enemies did their best to kill me, but the Lord rescued me.
14 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory.
17 I will not die; instead, I will live to tell what the Lord has done.

A. I would imagine these words echoed in His mind and heart as He prayed that night!

1. It was even the Psalms that He prayed as He hung on the cross!

Psalm 22:1

1 My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help?

Psalm 31:5

5 I entrust my spirit into your hand. Rescue me, Lord, for you are a faithful God.

2. The Psalms represent the Heart and Soul of the scriptures and it seems fitting for Jesus to quote them and pray them!

B. Gethsemane seems to be the “beginning of the disconnect” of Jesus to this earthly existence!

1. Jesus had warned them earlier that He was “disconnecting” and transitioning! (Quoting from Zechariah 13:7)

Mark 14:27

27 On the way, Jesus told them, “All of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'”

2. Gethsemane was a short walk along the Kidron Valley from the Upper room where they celebrated Passover.

3. What might Jesus be thinking as He walked to Gethsemane?

- a) The friends He was walking with would shortly betray Him?
- b) Peter would even deny knowing Him?
- c) He would face the coming torture alone?

4. All of these things may have hung in His thoughts as He approached Gethsemane!

II. They entered the Garden of Gethsemane! Even the meaning of the name seems fitting for what is about to happen! Gethsemane means the place of the "oil press!"

A. As all of the gospels speak of Gethsemane, only John calls it "a garden!" (see John 18:1)

1. Could John be connecting two prominent Gardens in scripture? Eden and Gethsemane.
2. Both of these gardens were places of "disconnect".
3. In Eden Adam "disconnected" from relationship and fellowship with a loving Heavenly Father.
4. In Gethsemane, the Second Adam, "disconnected" from a Fallen World!
5. It seems that Gethsemane was actually the true beginning of our redemption and restoration to our loving Heavenly Father!

1 Corinthians 15:45

45 The Scriptures tell us, "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.

B. Something very ordinary became something extraordinary!

John 18:1-2

1 After saying these things, Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples and entered a grove of olive trees. 2 Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples.

1. The weight of His destiny began to "press" Jesus!

Matthew 26:37-38

37 He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. 38 He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

2. He finally released His struggle to the Father!

Matthew 26:39

39 He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

3. Notice, we again see THE CUP! The cup of redemption!
4. All alone, Jesus struggles with our redemption!
5. Remember in Genesis, man was driven "out of the garden" and was alone, separated from God!
6. Jesus, the Second Adam, was left to struggle with our redemption...ALONE!

C. Perhaps Jesus, once again, struggled with Satan as He did in the wilderness!

1. Before the Fall of Man in the garden, Man experienced the pure Will of God! Only God's Will was known by Man!
2. When giving into the temptation of the Serpent, another Will was introduced! The Will of Man!
3. Now, in the garden Jesus prayed, "Father, not My will, but Yours!"

Philippians 2:5-11

5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. 9 Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

