

20250928 Not My Will – Ps Bijoy

Mark14:32-52

Good morning. Today, we are going to look at one of the most significant portions of the scriptures. Some moments in Scripture pull us into silence. Gethsemane is one of them.

It is not loud like the feeding of the five thousand. It is not glorious like the Mount of Transfiguration. It is not triumphant like the empty tomb. Here, in the garden, under the shadow of olive trees, the Son of God trembles. He sweats drops like blood. He cries out in agony.

Why? Because in this moment, Jesus stares into the cup of God's wrath. He sees the sin of the world, the judgment we deserve, and the abandonment of the Father.

This is holy ground. And if we understand this night, we will see not only the cost of salvation, but also the depth of Jesus' love for us.

The Crushing Sorrow of Jesus

When Jesus enters Gethsemane, He tells His disciples to sit down. He takes Peter, James, and John further in with Him. These are the men who had once seen His glory shining like the sun on the mountain. Now they will see His agony.

Mark tells us that Jesus began to be greatly distressed and troubled. The words are strong. They describe being horrified, shaken, almost crushed. Then Jesus Himself says, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death."

Think about that. The One who walked on water is now staggering under invisible weight. The One who drove out demons with a single word is now trembling with sorrow. The One who stilled the storm with His voice now feels a storm raging in His own heart.

Why? Because He sees the cup before Him. In Scripture, the cup often refers to the judgment of God. It is the cup of wrath poured out against sin. Jesus knows He must drink it to the very bottom. He must take the curse, the shame, the punishment that belongs to us.

Here we see His humanity in all its depth. He is not untouched by fear or grief. He is fully God, but He is also fully man, and as a man He feels the crushing sorrow of sin before you and I ever had to. He stared into the depths of hell so that you would never have to.

This means that when you feel pressed down by sorrow, when life feels too heavy to bear, when grief sits like a stone on your chest, you are not alone. Jesus has walked that road. He knows what it feels like. And He is with you.

The Surrendering Prayer of Jesus

After speaking to His disciples, Jesus goes a little farther into the garden. He falls to the ground. The King of kings is now in intense pain. The Creator of heaven and earth is lying weak upon the soil He made.

And He prays. “Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Every word is full of meaning. He begins with intimacy. He calls God “Abba.” That is the language of closeness. It is the word a child would use. In His darkest hour, Jesus clings to His Father.

Then He speaks with honesty. He asks for the cup to be taken away. Jesus does not pretend that the cross is easy. He does not hide His longing for another way. He prays openly, “Take this cup from me.” This is real prayer, it is raw, and it is vulnerable.

But He does not stop there. He surrenders. “Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Here is obedience at its deepest. Jesus bows His human will beneath the will of the Father.

What Adam destroyed in Eden, Jesus redeems in Gethsemane. In Eden, Adam said, “My will, not Yours,” and the world fell into death. In Gethsemane, Jesus says, “Your will, not mine,” and the way of life is opened.

This moment is where grace shines brightest. The law demands perfect obedience. The law says, “Obey or die.” Here stands Jesus, the only One who ever perfectly obeyed, and He chooses to die in our place. Grace triumphs because He takes the curse upon Himself and gives us the blessing.

This teaches us how to pray. When you come to God, you can speak with honesty. You can pour out your fears, your pain, your longing for another way. But in the end, peace comes not from controlling the outcome but from surrendering to the Father's will. True peace comes when you can say with Jesus, "Not my will, but Yours"

The Weakness of the Disciples

After pouring out His soul in prayer, Jesus returns to find His disciples. And what are they doing? They are asleep. Not once, not twice but three times.

You can almost hear the sadness in His voice. "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?" The man who just promised he would never abandon Jesus cannot even stay awake. The others, too, had sworn loyalty, but here they are snoring under the trees.

This scene exposes the frailty of human strength. The very best of us fail. Our promises are strong in the daylight, but they collapse in the dark. Our resolve sounds bold at the table, but it crumbles in the garden.

It also shows the necessity of prayer. Jesus warns them, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." Prayer is not an extra for super Christians. Prayer is survival. Without it, the flesh wins.

The gospel is not built on our watchfulness, but on Christ's. We fall asleep, but He stays awake. We fail, but He is faithful. Our salvation does not rest on how tightly we hold to Him but on how firmly He holds on to us.

This is humbling and comforting. It humbles us because it reminds us not to boast in our own strength. It comforts us because Jesus is faithful when we are faithless.

The Willing Surrender of Jesus

Suddenly, the stillness of the night is shattered. Judas arrives with a crowd carrying swords and clubs. The betrayer comes close, gives Jesus a kiss, and hands Him over. Soldiers seize Him. Peter, in his rash zeal, draws a sword and cuts off an ear.

But Jesus does not fight. He could have called down twelve legions of angels. He could have spoken a word and leveled the entire mob. But He does not, He yields and He surrenders.

And this surrender is not weakness. It is a mission. He is not a helpless victim. He is the willing sacrifice. He walks forward into betrayal, into trial, into death, because this is the very reason He came. Even the strange little detail of the young man running away naked tells us something. Everyone abandons Him. Everyone flees. But He goes alone. He chooses the path of obedience even when it means complete isolation.

This shows us the gospel of substitution. Jesus is arrested so that we might go free. He is bound so that we might be released. He is abandoned so that we might be accepted. His surrender secures our salvation.

This calls us to trust God's will even when it leads through suffering. The Christian life is not about escaping hardship. It is about surrendering to God and believing that His will, even when it hurts, is always good.

Conclusion

So, what do we see in this garden? We see Jesus crushed under sorrow because He is carrying the weight of our sin. We see Him surrender in prayer, choosing His Father's will instead of His own. We see the weakness of the disciples, stumbling in their flesh and falling asleep. And most of all, we see the willing surrender of Jesus, who walked into betrayal so that you and I might walk free.

Gethsemane is not only a place of shadows. It is a place of costly love. It is where salvation is secured. And here is the gospel for you: because Jesus surrendered in Gethsemane, you can stand in God's presence today. Because He drank the cup of wrath, your cup overflows with mercy. Because He was abandoned, you are now adopted.

So, when sorrow presses down on you, remember the Savior who bore sorrow for you. When your prayers feel weak, pray like Jesus, pouring out your heart yet surrendering to the Father. When your strength fails, rest in the grace of the One who never fails. And when you wonder if God loves you, look again at this garden. Look at the trembling Savior who still chose you. Look at the Son of God who walked willingly into the night of betrayal for your sake. And then bow down in worship!