

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Gospel of Mark*

*Message 57*

*June 7, 2015*



Agony in the Garden by Giovanni Bellini cir. 1465

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The Book of Mark

Message 57

Events Preceding the Crucifixion-Agony in The Garden

June 7, 2015

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The Last Supper by Valentin De Boulogne Cir. 1632

## AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Mark 14:27-42

<sup>27</sup> And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. <sup>28</sup> But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. <sup>29</sup> But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. <sup>30</sup> And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. <sup>31</sup> But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

<sup>32</sup> And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. <sup>33</sup> And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; <sup>34</sup> and saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. <sup>35</sup> And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not that I will, but what thou wilt. <sup>37</sup> And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? <sup>38</sup> Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. <sup>39</sup> And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. <sup>40</sup> And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him. <sup>41</sup> And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand (KJV).

## JESUS PROPHECIES MANY WILL FALL AWAY FROM HIM

Mark 14:27-42

<sup>27</sup> *And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered,*  
<sup>28</sup> *But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. (KJV).*

While they were on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives Jesus predicted the abandonment of the disciples and Peter's denial. In doing so He quoted the prophet Zechariah.

Zechariah: 13:7a

<sup>7</sup> *Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith Jehovah of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered, (ASV, 1901).*

Jesus was using the direct quote from Zechariah to prophecy the situation that would occur with His followers at His capture by the Jews and execution by the Romans. The principle He was describing is simply when the leader of a movement is removed the followers generally will abandon the leader's philosophy. This concept is well known in warfare. The prevailing army will remove the king and without a leader the king's forces will usually soon sue for peace. Jesus' illustration was a shepherd and his sheep. When the shepherd is gone the sheep have to guidance to direct their daily events and they scatter in fear. Here, the situation was prophecied which stated that I, (God The Father speaking), will strike (or put to death) the Shepherd (Jesus) and the sheep (The Disciples) will be scattered in all directions. They would soon deny any association with Him through desertion while denying any loyalty to Him for a while.

After this prophecy He immediately said that they would have a reunion after His Resurrection in Galilee their home and place of the majority of ministry for the last three and one-half years. Jesus was saying that His death would be genuine but it would be reversed. He said that will be "raised." He was giving them confidence that His death was only temporary. The resurrection was a certainty. He would not abandon them, they still would be His disciples. Even though they would forsake him. He would go to Galilee and they were to follow Him up north and meet up with Him.

## PETER'S DECLARES HIS ALLEGIANCE

Mark 14:29-30

<sup>29</sup> *But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. <sup>30</sup> And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice, <sup>31</sup> But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all (KJV).*

Peter impetuously declared his allegiance to Christ even if all the others fell away. Jesus who knew exactly what events would befall Him, countered Peter's affirmation with the

facts of what his actual behavior would be. He said, *“That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.”* In other word before the morning rooster crows twice at daybreak Peter would have denied Him three times already. Roosters don't need the light of a new day to know when it's dawn. Their instinctive clocks alert them to the time. So not only would Peter not be like the other disciples and leave Him, he would outdo them by denying he knew Jesus three times that night. Peter had no idea how weak he was spiritually and physically. We must remember that this was before the death and Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' death was a powerful event for the disciples to internalize. They had only experiencing the death when they all fell away from Jesus. However, after the Resurrection they all experienced a substantial transformation. They saw Him appear to them while they were in hiding for fear that the Jews would arrest them too. They were gathered together except for Judas and Thomas when He appeared to them showing them His wounds.

He then proceeded to breathe on them imparting the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-22). This imparting of the Holy Spirit as well as the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost following His resurrection fully emboldened them. Then they would profess His name regardless of the opposition. After experiencing the New Spiritual Birth the more one trusts in the fact of the Resurrection and places his or her complete trust in Jesus the less the threat of this world's evil is troubling (Psalm 3&4).

Peter actually did not think it possible to deny Christ. He might have been thinking that he was the betrayer that Jesus mentioned at dinner who would be one of them. He affirmed his intent by saying, *“If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise.”* Unfortunately Jesus words would prove true that night because Peter would deny Him and although the others affirm Peter's declaration all of them would scatter like sheep without a shepherd.

IN GETHSEMANE

Mark 14:32

*<sup>32</sup> And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray (KJV).*

Beside the cross this was the most intense suffering in Jesus' life. He was experiencing the immense pressure on what lay ahead of Him that day. He was about to reverse the sin that Satan brought into the world in the Garden of Eden as well as cleanse the Heavenly Tabernacle, which had also been polluted by Satan (Hebrews 9:23). Ezekiel 28 gives the account of Satan polluting the Heavenly Tabernacle.

Ezekiel 28:11-19

*<sup>11</sup> Moreover the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, <sup>12</sup> Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. <sup>13</sup> Thou wast in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, the topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was in thee; in the day that thou*

wast created they were prepared. <sup>14</sup>Thou wast the anointed cherub that covereth: and I set thee, so that thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>15</sup>Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till unrighteousness was found in thee. <sup>16</sup>By the abundance of thy traffic they filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore have I cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God; and I have destroyed thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>17</sup>Thy heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I have cast thee to the ground; I have laid thee before kings, that they may behold thee. <sup>18</sup>By the multitude of thine iniquities, in the unrighteousness of thy traffic, thou hast profaned thy sanctuaries; therefore have I brought forth a fire from the midst of thee; it hath devoured thee, and I have turned thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. <sup>19</sup>All they that know thee among the peoples shall be astonished at thee: thou art become a terror, and thou shalt nevermore have any being (ASV 1901).

This passage states that he defiled the Sanctuary in Heaven. This made the Heavens unclean (Job 4:18, 15:15, 25:5). When mankind was lured into sin by Satan his sin reached unto Heaven. Colossians 1:20 says, “and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” These are the reasons that the Heavenly Tabernacle needed cleansing by a better blood than the copy of the Heavenly Tabernacle, which was brought to the earth in Moses time. Moses offered animal blood, which was only temporarily ameliorating for the earthly Tabernacle.

Hebrews 9:22-28

<sup>22</sup> And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. <sup>23</sup> It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup> For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: <sup>25</sup> nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; <sup>26</sup> for then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: <sup>28</sup> so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation (KJV).

Jesus's sacrifice was intentional and did not take Him by surprise as it did the apostles. He planned it. It was deliberate and calculated and was undertaken with great emotion to provide the most significant cleansing of all. At the foot of the Mount of Olives Jesus told the disciples to, “*Sit ye here, while I shall pray.*” The intensity of the drama must not be missed here. The religious elders had already issued the warrant for Jesus' arrest. It was dark and after midnight. The disciples were exhausted from eating, drinking and grappling with the declaration of His death and their impending abandonment of Jesus.

## INTENSE SORROW COMES TO JESUS

Mark 14:33-34

*<sup>33</sup> And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; <sup>34</sup> and saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch (KJV).*

Jesus took the inner circle of the apostles with him deeper into the garden of Gethsemane where He declared to them, “*My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.*” This was His most trusted group and they had been with Him at the Transfiguration, as well as the Olivet Discourse, less Andrew.

It is not coincidental that the name Gethsemane means the press of oils. It was the name for a press that crushed oil out of olives. Jesus was starting to experience a crushingly sorrow that no human can begin to imagine as the massive burden was falling on Him to pay the price for sin entering the Heavens and earth. The sorrow he experienced was so strong that it threatened to extinguish His life then and there. Because of this He told them to, “*tarry ye here, and watch.*” He had to conduct a serious prayer of preparation and did not want to be interrupted. So He wanted them to keep alert for what was going to happen to Him. He wanted to devote Himself to prayer until the arrest.

## JESUS' PRAYER

Mark 14:35-36

*<sup>35</sup> And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not that I will, but what thou wilt (KJV).*

He just moved a short distance from them and prostrated Himself on the ground (Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:41) and began to pray out loud with great emotion (Hebrews 5:7) for at least one hour (Mark 14:37). Mark's gospel only records a summary of the prayer and a direct quotation. Jesus requested that *this hour* might pass from Him if possible. He did not doubt that God the Father could grant the request but was God willing to do so (Luke 22:42)? *This hour* is a reference to the general time of Jesus' suffering and death.

The term *cup* is also a reference to the collective burden God the Father gave Him to pay the penalty for the entire corpus of the sins that Satan had wrought in Heaven and Earth. By bearing the Judgment of God the sinless Jesus became sin and endured the agony of the divine punishment (Mark 15:34; II Corinthians 5:21).

He refers to God the Father as *Abba*. This is a Hebrew expression of endearment from children to their fathers. It was a loving, close and admiring expression denoting intimate familiarity. The Jews never used this in reference to God. Since Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity it is natural He would use an expression such as this in reference to God the Father. Therefore Jesus' use of *Abba* is further affirmation of the closeness of His relation with God the Father as well as His own deity. He probably used it often in His prayers to



express His intimate relationship with God as His Father. *Abba* here suggests that Jesus' primary concern in drinking the cup of God's judgment on sin would break this relationship. Jesus asked if possible that He would not have to take this penalty in His humanity. Jesus' human will was distinct from the Father's will but was not disobedient to it. He knew that it was absolutely His purpose to go to the cross but from His human state it was distressing.

#### THE INNER CIRCLE FAIL TO WATCH

Mark 14:37-40

*<sup>37</sup> And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldst not thou watch one hour? <sup>38</sup> Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak, <sup>39</sup> And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. <sup>40</sup> And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him. (KJV).*

Jesus rebuked Peter for sleeping when He asked him to keep watch. Jesus wanted them to pray that they would withstand the coming difficult events of His arrest, trial, crucifixion, and entombment. On the one hand their spirits were ready in terms of their intentions but the flesh was weakened. They were extremely exhausted and could not stay awake. Then Jesus went away to resume His prayer. When he returned He found them asleep again and they simply did not have an answer for Him as to why they were sleeping.

#### THE BETRAYAL IS AT HAND

Mark 14:41-42

*<sup>41</sup> And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand (KJV).*

When Jesus returned the third time to the sleeping apostles it seems that he had compassion on them and told them to continue to sleep, as there would not be time now for them to pray for Him. This proved true as the betrayer was coming with the religious authorities to arrest Him. He refers to the hostile Sanhedrin as the sinners. Instead of fleeing, Jesus and the inner circle as well as the other apostles stood up to meet the betrayer Judas and the Jews.

NEXT WEEK: MARK: JESUS BETRAYAL & ARREST

**Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments**

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