

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday March 21, 2010

[Jesus in Gethsemane] . . . fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. . . And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Mark 14:35, 37-38

Mark 14: 32-42 is about two things:

First, it concerns the agony of Jesus as He faces the horror of what he is about to do in taking our sin upon Himself. We saw this last week in verses 32-36. Here we find Jesus wrestling in prayer, fighting the weakness of His ‘frail humanity,’ struggling against his very human desire to escape what He knows is coming and His even greater desire to do His Father’s will. It is a battle waged in prayer as Jesus cries, “*Abba Father! All things are possible for You: remove this cup from Me: yet not what I will, but what You will.*” (v 36).

So Jesus, with mighty cryings, yields to His Father’s will. Why? Because He loves Him; because He trusts Him; and because He knows He will lead Him in what is right! And yet, please do not miss the fact, seen here, that Jesus, in his incarnation, needed prayer! Though He is the Son of God, nevertheless in His human state, He depended on prayer to strengthen Him and give Him clear direction for doing His Father’s will. Certainly if he depended on prayer for these things, so much more we! That brings us to this second thing.

Here in this passage (vv 37-42), we also see the failure of His disciples to be strengthened by prayer. They, too, were facing a terrible crises, though they couldn’t see it at the time! Jesus tried to warn them, but they wouldn’t listen. So when the time of testing came, each and every one of failed! Why? Because, as we’ll see in this morning’s message, they did not heed Jesus command to “*Watch and pray!*” Without prayer, failure is all but certain! But Satan trembles at the sight of the weakest saint upon his knees!

May we hear his call to believing prayer, this morning!

Pastor Scott