The Struggle of Obedience

Matthew 26:36-46



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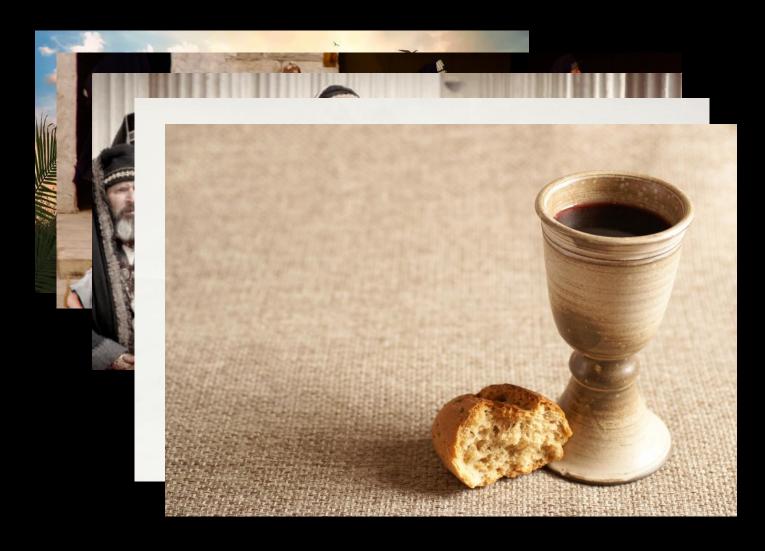
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https://www.crosswalk.com/church/pastors-or-leadership/ask-roger/8-things-most-christians-don-t-understand-about-jesus-triumphal-entry.html

• Gethsemane – oil press



- Gethsemane oil press
- John 18:2 "for Jesus ofttimes resorted thither with his disciples"



- Gethsemane oil press
- John 18:2 "for Jesus ofttimes resorted thither with his disciples"
- The last time He will be there in Matt. 26:36-46





(Mat 26:36-46)

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Gethsemane: The Struggle of Obedience

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His Sorrow – Matt. 26:38

His Sorrow

Matt. 26:38 – "... My soul is exceeding sorrowful..."

His Humanity

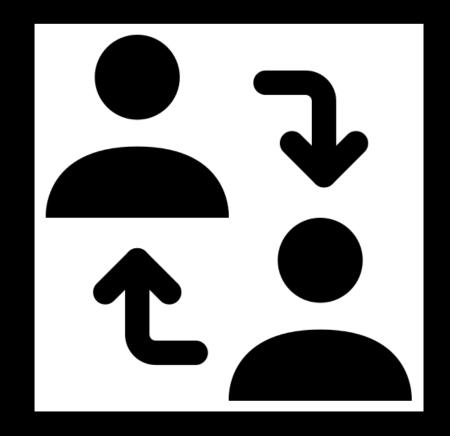
- Hebrews 2:9-18
- Hebrews 2:14 "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of <u>flesh and</u> <u>blood</u>, he also <u>himself likewise took</u> <u>part of the same</u>..."
- He took on our flesh and blood
- He took the form of a man Phil. 2



Christ had to identify Himself with us

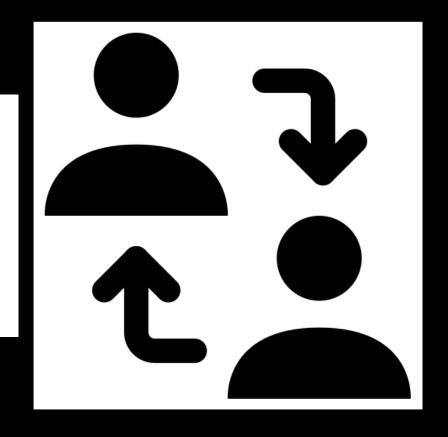
"Jesus had to "be made like [us] in every respect" so he could:

- (1) obey his Father perfectly on our behalf, and
- (2) offer himself as a "once for all" sacrifice (Hebrews 7:27) to make "propitiation **for our sins**" (Hebrews 2:17)."
- Jon Bloom (https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/escape-from-every-temptation)



Christ had to identify Himself with us

Without God's identification with our humanity fully in Jesus Christ, there can be no redemption of our humanity at the cross!





He was tempted in terms of:



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• Appetite – "command that these stones be made bread" (v. 3)



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- Ambition "If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down" (v. 6)
- Adoration "if Thou wilt fall down and worship me" (v. 9)



The authenticity of His humanity

A Man of flesh and bone

Uniquely indwelt by the divine nature

Who was in agony before a single nail pierced His flesh

A struggle that gives us a glimpse into our salvation



https://extravaganthope.com/manger-baby-jesus-seeing-god/

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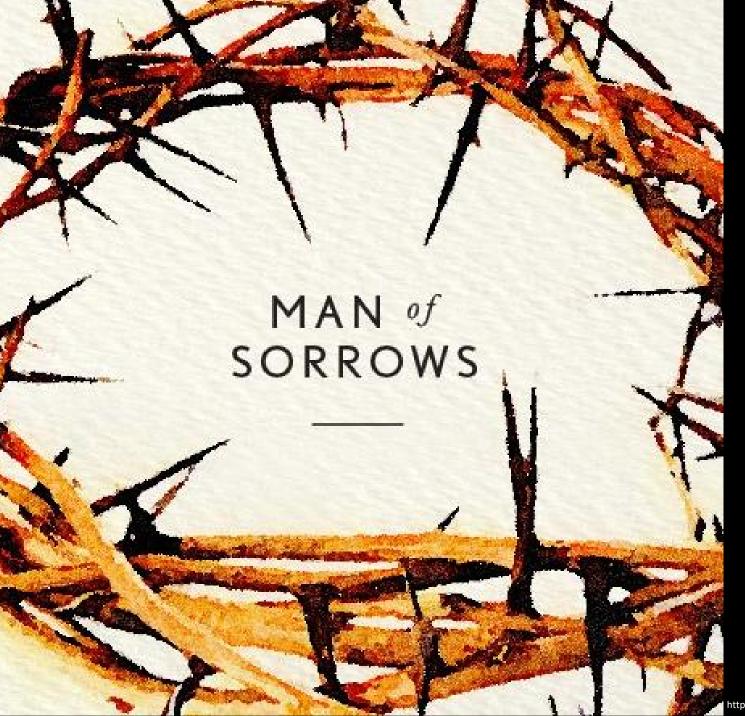
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Sorrowful

- sorrowful perilypos, "over-whelmed with sorrow," v. 38
- distressed from ademoneo, "troubled"
- "terrible distress and misery"
- "crushed with anguish"
- The language echoes the cries of the psalmist in Psalms 42:5-6 and 43:5
 - "Why art thou cast down, O my soul?"



https://earlychurchhistory.org/medicine/jesus-sweats-real-blood-in-gethsemane/



Isaiah 53:3

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."



Man of sorrows what a name For the Son of God, who came Ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah, what a Savior!

- Philip P. Bliss (1875)



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Man of sorrows, Lamb of God By His own betrayed The sin of man and wrath of God Has been on Jesus laid

- Hillsong

Gethsemane: The Struggle of Obedience

His Sorrow – Matt. 26:38

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His Sorrow – Matt. 26:38

His Suffering

- Matt. 26:39

His Suffering

Matt. 26:39 – "...let this cup pass from me..."

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Denied



- Denied
- Betrayed





- Denied
- Betrayed
- Deserted







- Denied
- Betrayed
- Deserted
- Forsaken









https://acts242study.com/before-the-rooster-crows/ https://www.reformation21.org/blog/forsaken-or-felt-forsaken

What will He go through in the next 24 hours?

- He will go to the cross
- He will lay down His life
- He will pour out His blood
- He will handle the cross
- He will take the wrath of the Romans
- He will take the wrath of the leaders of the Sanhedrin

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 But must He be exposed to the cup of God's unmitigated wrath against the sin of man?

- A metaphor for God's wrath
- Due to our sin



- A metaphor for God's wrath
- Due to our sin
- Not primarily His **physical** suffering; it is predominantly His **spiritual** suffering



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- OT cup represents God's wrath
 - Isaiah 51:17, 20-22
 - Jeremiah 25:15-16



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- It was **given** to Him by the Father John 18:11



• Believers will never partake of a cup of judgment



- Believers will never partake of a cup of judgment
- Christ exhausted it once and for all at Calvary



O Christ, what burdens bowed Thy head!

"Death and the curse were in our cup, O Christ, 'twas full for Thee!

But Thou hast drained the last dark drop—'Tis empty now for me.

That bitter cup—love drank it up; Now blessings' draught for me."

- Anne R. Cousin

In the face of all this...

In the face of all this... Christ prayed!



In the face of all this... Christ prayed!





Important Lesson:

• The **necessity** of prayer

In the face of all this... Christ prayed!





Important Lesson:

- The <u>necessity</u> of prayer
- If the Son of God prayed, how much more must we!

His Sadness

 Hebrews 5:7a – "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with <u>strong crying</u> and <u>tears</u>..."



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His Solemnity

• Luke 22:44 – "And being in an agony he prayed more *earnestly*: and his *sweat* was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground"





His Solitude

- He prayed alone
- He wanted companionship
- Psalm 69:20b "...and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none."



"Watch and pray"

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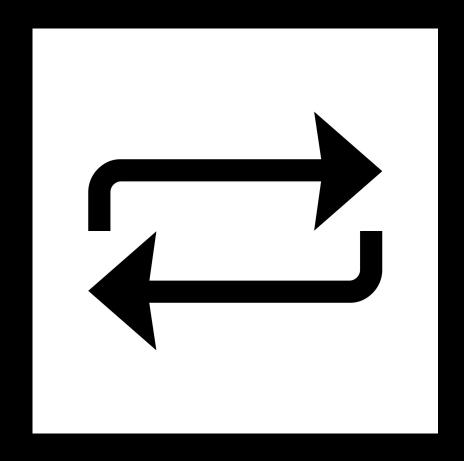
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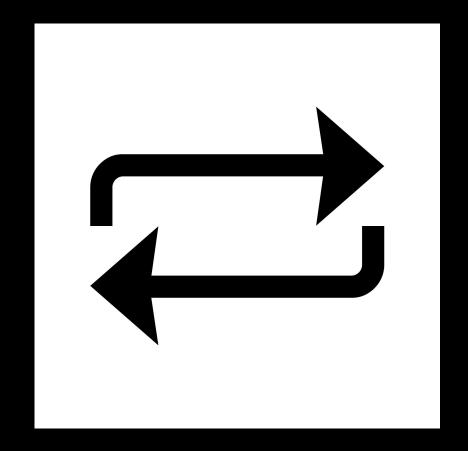
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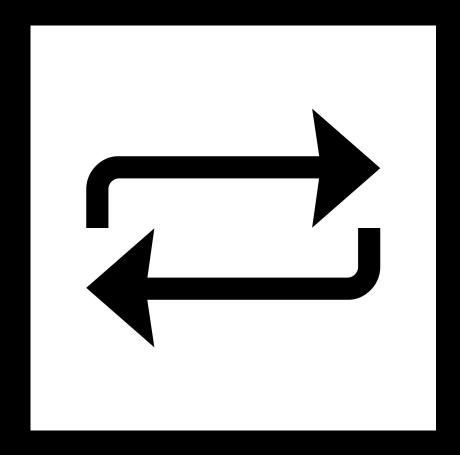
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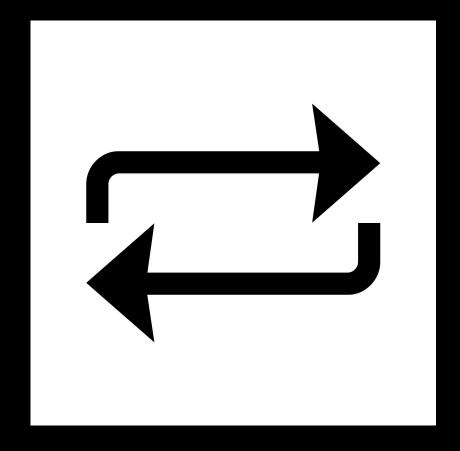
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 - V. 39 He **Appealed** to His Father



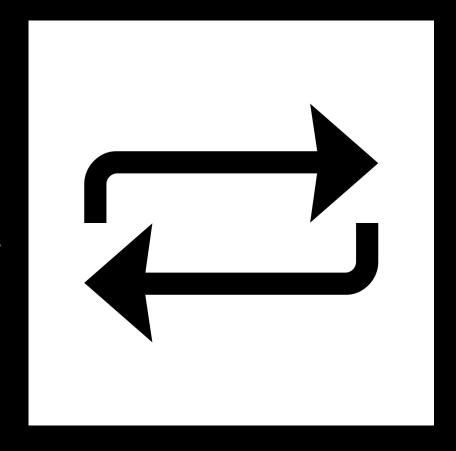
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 - V. 42 He **Accepts** His Father's will



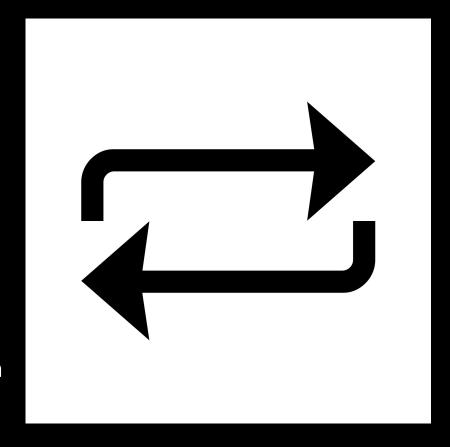
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- Praying to be aligned to the will of God
 - Matt. 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

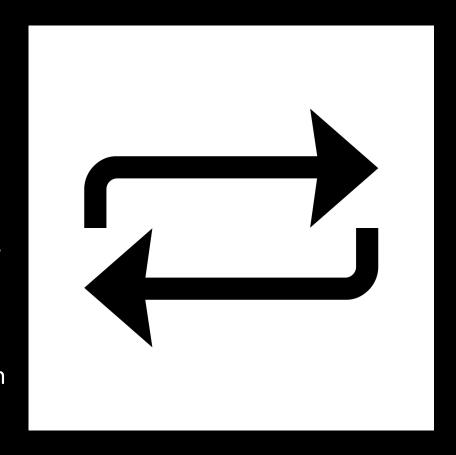


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- What about Matt. 6:7?
 - "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do:..."



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- What about Matt. 6:7?
 - "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do:..."
- Important Lesson:
 - There is value in **repeated** prayer!





• His Stance



His Stance

- He fell on His face
- Only time in all of Scripture that He prostrated Himself before His Father
- Lowest form of humility





- Was He indecisive?
- Did He doubt?



- Was He indecisive?
- Did He doubt?
- If it be possible the sensitivity of a true human heart shrinking from the worst
- Christ being human, shared the same reaction



- Was He indecisive?
- Did He doubt?
- If it be possible the sensitivity of a true human heart shrinking from the worst
- Christ being human, shared the same reaction
- He would not even for a second think of turning away
- His face was set as a flint towards Jerusalem



What was the Father's answer to the Lord Jesus?

Silence



The Father's Silence



• The Father answers on other occasions

The Father's Silence



The Father's Silence

• The Father answers on other occasions

 Hebrews 5:7 – "with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared"



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The Father's Silence

- The Father answers on other occasions
- Hebrews 5:7 "with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared"
- But He did not instead God chose to save us

No Other Way

"There was no other way a God of Love could find To reconcile the world and save a lost mankind It took the death of His own Son upon a tree There was no other way but Calvary"

- John W. Peterson

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His Surrender

- Matt. 26:42

His Surrender

Matt. 26:42 – "...Thy will be done"

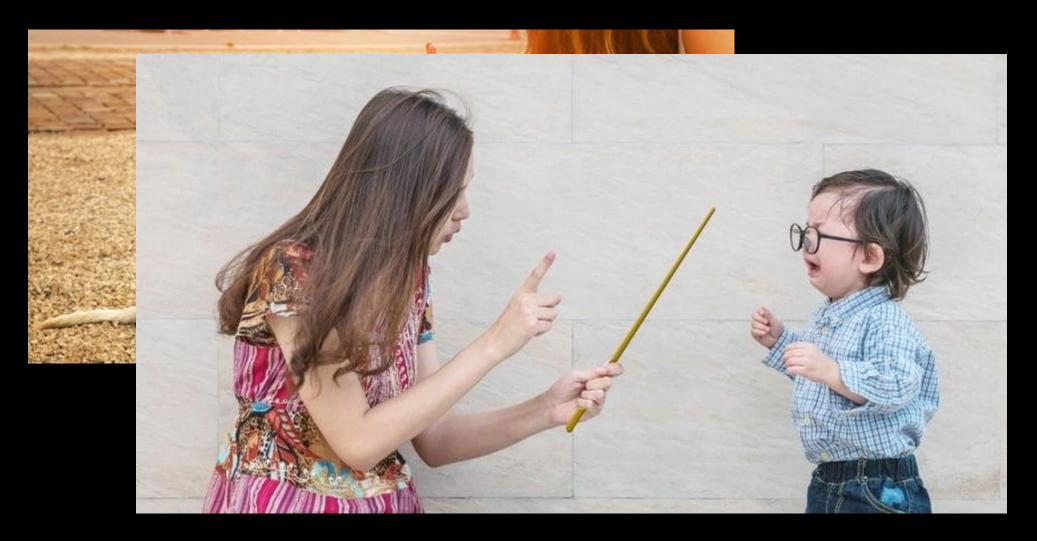
John 18:11 – "the cup which my Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?"

What motivates obedience?

What motivates obedience?



What motivates obedience?



• His *love* for His Father!

His <u>love</u> for His Father!

• John 14:31 - But that the world may know that I **love** the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

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Love!

• Love!

- John 14:15
 - "If ye <u>love</u> Me, keep my commandments."

Love!

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How did He obey?

- Matt. 26:54 "But how then shall the <u>scriptures</u> be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"
- Matt. 26:56 "But all this was done, that the <u>scriptures</u> of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled."

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According to the Scriptures!

How did He obey?

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- According to the Scriptures!
- Important Lesson:
 - Our obedience should be according to the Word of God!



"Lo, I come"

"Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith,

Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not,
but **a body** hast Thou prepared Me:
In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast had no pleasure.

Then said I,
Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,)
to do thy will, O God."

- Hebrews 10:5-7

His Father's Will



• Throughout life and death, the will of Christ was always that of the Father.





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 - His Works
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 - His Witness
 - John 5:36 "But I have greater <u>witness</u> than that of John: for the works which the <u>Father</u> hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear <u>witness</u> of me, that the <u>Father</u> hath sent me."

What was the Father's Will?

 John 6:39 – "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

John 6:40 – "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

(Mat 26:36-46)

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

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 - Prayer is not seeking to manipulate God



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- "If it is not possible"
 - The Lord is acknowledging that if there is no other way, He will still go to the cross
 - The Father's will is His only option

- Important Lesson:
 - Prayer is not seeking to <u>manipulate</u> God
 - Prayer is seeking to **surrender** to the will of God!





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• The Lord did not learn obedience as we do from the opposite position of disobedience



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- Rather He learnt it by experiencing obedience to the uttermost



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- The Lord did not learn obedience as we do from the opposite position of disobedience
- Rather He learnt it by experiencing obedience to the uttermost
- Obedience was nothing new to the Lord, but the depth of it was new in Gethsemane



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Our Example

- He is our example of obedience
- Hebrews 12 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross"

Turn your eyes upon Jesus



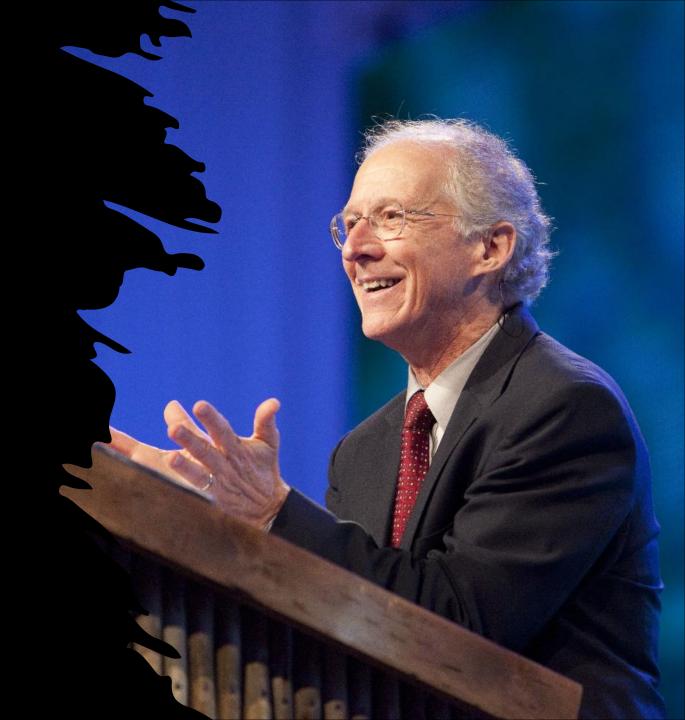


Obedience

"The Lion of Judah is the Lamb who was slain.

He wins <u>our obedience</u> by forgiving our sins and making <u>His own</u> <u>obedience</u> – His own perfection as the Righteous One – the basis of our acceptance with God"

John Piper









Gethsemane: The Struggle of Obedience

His Sorrow – Matt. 26:38

His Suffering

- Matt. 26:39

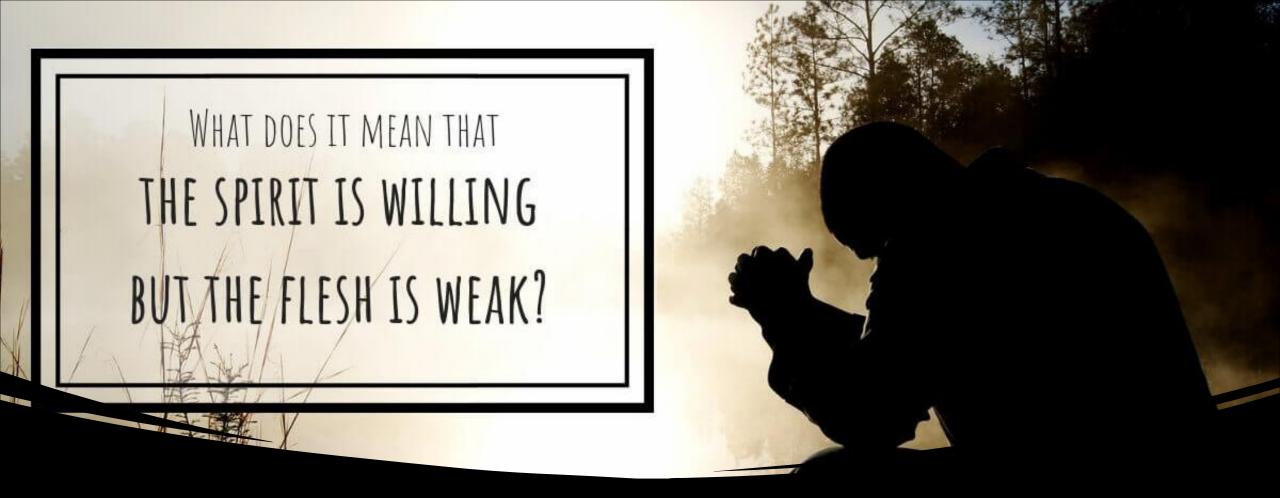
His Surrender

- Matt. 26:42

Watch and Pray

Peter, James, and John fell asleep





Willing spirit, weak flesh

- The Lord Jesus did what the disciples failed to do
- The spirit of the disciples is willing but the flesh of the disciples is weak
 - Peter's denial



How do we overcome our weak flesh?



How do we overcome our weak flesh?





Watch

- to keep awake, that is, watch (literally or figuratively):
 - be vigilant
 - wake
 - (be) watch (-ful)



Watch and Pray

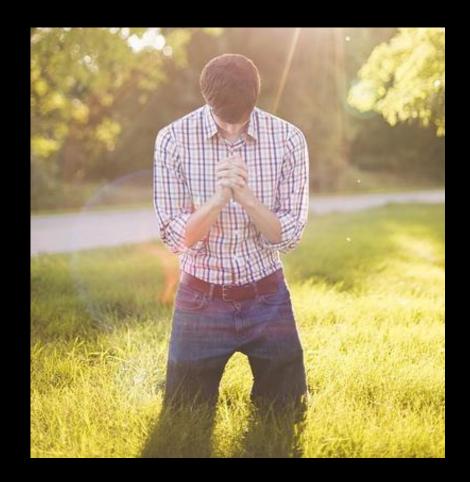
- Mark 13:37 "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."
- Acts 20:31 "Therefore watch..."
- 1 Cor. 16:13 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith..."
- Col. 4:2 "Continue in <u>prayer</u>, and <u>watch</u> in the same with thanksgiving;"
- 1 Thess. 5:6 "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."
- Eph. 6:18 "Praying always with all <u>prayer</u> and supplication in the Spirit, and <u>watching</u> thereunto..."
- 1 Peter 4:7 "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."
- 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be <u>vigilant</u>;..."
 - Peter learned from experience



- How many times do we pray expecting things to go our own way?
- In illness, or financial crisis, or relationships
 - Pray that I might get that job
 - Pray that I might get that life partner
 - Pray that I might ...



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- Do we say, not my will, but Yours be done?
- Gethsemane That is where we find that the Lord of the world, the one to whom is now committed all authority (Matt. 28:18), has been there before us







• Jesus lived the life of obedience that we should have lived and died the death that we should have died



- Jesus lived the life of obedience that we should have lived and died the death that we should have died
- God looks at us who believe and sees the obedience of His Son



- Jesus lived the life of obedience that we should have lived and died the death that we should have died
- God looks at us who believe and sees the obedience of His Son
- Will we love Him and choose His will?



