

# The Glory of Jesus' Suffering, Death, and Resurrection

## Lesson Three

### The Son Willingly Bows to His Father's Will

*Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll.  
I desire to do your will, O my God." (Psalm 40:7,8)*

1. Appreciate his agony

2. View his victory

## Worship

Read responsively hymn 98, stanza 1, from *Christian Worship*.

A: Jesus, I will ponder now

**B: On your holy passion;**

A: With your Spirit me endow

**B: For such meditation.**

A: Grant that I in love and faith

**B: May the image cherish**

A: Of your suff'ring, pain, and death

**B: That I may not perish. Amen.**

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, give us your Spirit today as we watch Jesus bear the guilt of our sin. Enable us to praise him better and rest in the peace he has given us. Amen.

## Introduction

*Scripture references:*

*Matthew 26:36-56*

*Mark 14:32-52*

*Luke 22:39-53*

*John 18:1-12a*

How dismayed our heavenly Father must have been when in the Garden of Eden his created children, Adam and Eve, voiced their first defiant no to his will. They rejected his plan for their lives. With high arrogance and base foolishness, they embarked on the path of sinful self-will. Unfortunately, we can relate to that defiance of God, for it has been played out countless times in the lives of Adam and Eve's descendants, including us.

Today our lesson takes us to another garden, the Garden of Gethsemane. As we watch our Savior, we will see and hear something far different from sinful self-will. Here we will observe an obedient yes to the Father's will, and we'll note the eternal implications of that answer for each of us.

## Background

The Mount of Olives was well known to Judas, the betrayer. John tells us that Jesus often met there with his disciples. In fact, Jesus and his disciples spent the night there at least twice during Holy Week (Luke 21:37). Judas rightly concluded that he would be successful in betraying Jesus by leading the mob of soldiers and servants to this quiet place outside the walls of Jerusalem.

## Appreciate his agony

Peter, James, and John alone are granted an opportunity to see a glimpse of Jesus' agony. However, just as on the Mount of Transfiguration, a mixture of fear and fatigue clouds their view.

**Read Matthew 26:36-44.**

1. Explain what is behind this astounding comment from Jesus' lips: "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death" (verse 38).
2. Jesus' sorrowful struggle is also revealed in the earnestness of his prayers—spoken facedown in the dirt! Does there seem to be an unwillingness to do what the Father was asking of him? How are we to understand why he prays as he does?
3. Look at Luke's account of Jesus' prayers in 22:39-44. What extra evidence of his agony do we find here?
4. Compare how we often react to serious difficulty with how Jesus reacted to it in the garden.
5. Contrast how Jesus feels as he bears the burden of our sin with how we in modern society view the seriousness of sin.
6. What would happen to us if Jesus did not drink this cup of suffering the Father held before him?

How humbling to see the God-man facedown in the dirt under the load of human sin. We who often think of sin "but lightly" here may "see its nature rightly" (CW 127:3).

## **View his victory**

As the sound of the approaching mixed mob of Jews and Romans (including the Roman commander himself) breaks into the quiet of the garden, we see the glorious beauty of what happened in Gethsemane.

***Read John 18:1-12a.***

1. In these 12 verses, find at least five examples that Jesus has triumphed in prayer and is completely ready to drink the cup the Father has given him.
2. How did Jesus' obedience to his Father's will, even when that meant suffering hell on the cross, reveal Jesus as our Savior?
3. Agree or disagree: The greatest lesson we can learn from what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane is to persevere in temptation with prayer just as Jesus did.

We have all rebelled against God's will, but there is one who did not. The wonderful truth is that Jesus' obedience counts for us all, giving us the status before God of perfectly obedient sons and daughters. Because of Christ, God is well pleased with us. He drinks the cup of suffering so that we might drink the cup of salvation!

## **During the week**

Reread the references from the four gospels that describe the events in the garden. Look for even more details of the depth of Jesus' suffering and more evidence of his willingness to do the saving will of the Father.

Read ahead for next week as we follow Jesus into the Jewish courts to see him condemned. Notice again how John gives us details that fill out the picture given to us by the other evangelists. Read Matthew 26:57-27:10; Mark 14:53-15:1; Luke 22:54-71; 18:12-27; and John 18:12-27.