

sermon study guide

March 20/21, 2021

The Week that Changed the World: Glorious Surrender

Kent Priebe

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What is the most physical pain you've ever had to endure?
2. We've all likely heard the phrase, "No pain, no gain". In what area of life have you experienced this to be true?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read Matthew 26:36-46

3. What about the cross deeply troubled Jesus and caused him to be "overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death" (v. 38)? (See Is 51:17)
4. Compare Jesus' first and second prayers (vv. 39 and 42). What are similarities and differences? Why did He go back and pray a third time (v. 44)?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Kent pointed out the approach Jesus had in prayer. Jesus prayed with:
 - an undivided heart
 - honesty
 - surrenderWhich of these is hardest for you to follow? How is God challenging you to be more faithful in this area of prayer?
6. Who do you have to "watch and pray" with you? This week be intentional about having someone pray for you, and you for them.

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Pastor Kent spoke about how a life of integrity in the small things leads to a life of integrity in the big things. Prayerfully reflect if there are areas of your life, big or small, where you may be compromising or need to surrender to God. Write this on a sticky note in a place where you will see it as a reminder.

THE WORD (NIV)

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

⁴⁰Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. ⁴¹"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴²He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

⁴³When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

sermon study summary

The Week that Changed the World: Glorious Surrender

Kent Priebe

We avoid pain wherever possible – be it physical, emotional, or spiritual. There is usually a medication to take or a route to avoid the person or situation causing it. Rarely do we see good coming from painful situations. What do you do when you find yourself in a painful, emotional battleground that you need to face for which you don't have the heart?

Jesus was in a similar place after having supped with His disciples. Having walked to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, Jesus felt sorrowful and troubled (Matthew 26:36-46). 'Sorrowful and troubled' (v. 38) here means horrible inner pain. This was not over the prospect of dying; Jesus had shared many times that He was prepared to die. Rather it was 'the cup' (vs 39) that Jesus prayed would pass from Him.

In the Old Testament the 'Cup' was a metaphor not just for suffering but for God's divine wrath on sin and wrongdoing (Isaiah 51:17). Jesus was about to experience the anger, judgment and wrath of God towards the sins of the entire world, and the feeling of being forsaken by His Father (Matthew 27:46). His prayer was that the punishment of God that human evil and sin deserved would be taken from Him. We learn from Jesus how to face our own inner battles by seeing how Jesus modeled it.

1. **Jesus modeled an undivided heart of devotion to God.** The temptation that He faced in the Garden could not divide Him from His devotion to God. He lived a life of perfect integrity, allowing His heart to be shaped by listening patiently to His Father then carefully obeying what the Father wanted Him to do. He was the same with the crowds as He was with His disciples.

What is the state of the integrity of your heart? Are you divided - lazy to obey God in some areas? Small acts of faithful obedience will prepare you for greater challenges and temptations.

2. **Jesus modeled honest prayer.** Jesus was brutally honest with God in telling His Father where He was at and what He wanted (v. 39). God heard Jesus and answered His prayers by sending an angel to strengthen Him (Luke 2:43). It was between prayers (v. 42) that Jesus' heart changed. He essentially said, 'If there is no other way then don't let me fail to do your will'. The best way with God is to be open, vulnerable and honest by telling Him what you are going through and what your heart desires.

When His children approach God in prayer, He hears, knows, sees, cares, answers, empowers and responds. In turn our will and plans shape and conform to fit God's will such that His will is done in our unique circumstances.

3. **Jesus modeled the way of surrender.** Jesus knew what He was facing. His loudest desire was to find another way; His deepest desire was to obey; glorifying His Father. Jesus didn't suppress or ignore His desires but trusted His heavenly Father, surrendering the desires of His heart to the plans and will of God. He lived out His prayer 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done' (Matthew 6:10).

Jesus was able to surrender to God because He knew God loved Him. What enables us to surrender is knowing God's love for us. God demonstrated His love for us in Jesus and what He did by taking on Himself the sins of the world. Is there something you need to surrender to God and say, "In this area not my will but Your will be done"?