

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Cup

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Luke 22:39-46

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1776

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2024 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) To the east of the city of Jerusalem, there is a mountain called the Mount of Olives.
  - i) On the western slope, there is a garden that contains primarily olive trees.
    - (1) Eight ancient olive trees stand there.
      - (a) Some believe that they go back to the time of Christ.
      - (b) They stand like sentinels watching over the garden where Jesus came to pray.
    - (2) All the way back to the second century, tradition tells us that this is Gethsemane.
      - (a) The word “Gethsemane” literally means “oil press.”
        - (i) In this garden, there was a giant press used to press the oil from the olives.
  - b) Jesus would often come to this place and kneel and pray, but this night was like no other night.
    - i) Jesus had been up on Mount Zion.
      - (1) There in an upper room, He had the Last Supper with His disciples.
        - (a) He talked about His coming crucifixion and betrayal.
    - ii) The Lord Jesus, needing prayer, left Mount Zion and crossed the Kidron Brook.
      - (1) Scholars tell us that when animal sacrifices were made on the Temple Mount, the blood would run down into the Kidron Brook.
        - (a) It would literally be crimson with blood.
      - (2) Jesus crossed that brook running crimson with blood.
        - (a) It must have reminded the Lord Jesus that soon His blood would flow in that same spot on Moriah, the Temple Mount.
    - iii) In Gethsemane, Jesus kneeled at the rock of agony and prayed.
      - (1) Three times Jesus prayed.
      - (2) Luke 22:42
        - (a) He didn’t speak about a literal cup.
        - (b) He used a metaphor or a figure of speech.
          - (i) A symbol meaning to experience something fully, or to take something into one’s very being, as one would take a cup and put it to his lips.
  - c) It was the cup of agony that Jesus drank in Gethsemane, and He drank it there alone.
    - i) When the Lord Jesus began His ministry, when He performed miracles, fed the multitudes, opened blind eyes, and healed withered hands, the crowds followed Him.
      - (1) They loved the miracles that He did.
    - ii) But when Jesus Christ began to speak to them of deeper eternal matters and of full surrender to His Lordship, they began to leave Him.
      - (1) They left Him in droves.
    - iii) The Lord Jesus asked His disciples if they would also go away.

- (1) John 6:66-67
  - (2) One of the twelve left Him.
    - (a) Judas went to betray Him.
    - (b) Then, He only had eleven.
  - iv) Out of the eleven, He chose three disciples to go and watch and pray with Him.
    - (1) But those three failed Him.
      - (a) They fell asleep.
  - v) Only Jesus the Son and God the Father were there.
    - (1) But in Gethsemane, Jesus knew that soon God the Father must turn His back on Him.
      - (a) Jesus would drink that cup alone in Gethsemane.
  - d) Luke 22:39-46
  - e) In today's message, we will look at the cup that Jesus drank in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- 2) THE CONTENTS OF THE CUP
- a) The contents of the cup were so vile, so filthy, and so terrifying, that the very Son of God shrank back with dread.
  - b) Was it physical death by crucifixion that caused such dread?
    - i) Never has a form of execution been known to man that was more ignominiously painful, hurtful, and shameful than death by crucifixion.
    - ii) But others had died that way.
      - (1) Other martyrs had gone to their deaths, not with dread, but saying that they would gladly die for the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - iii) It wasn't physical death that the Lord Jesus shrank back from, not even the pains of a crucifixion.
  - c) Was it some extraordinary attack of Satan that was in that cup?
    - i) Jesus had already met Satan in the wilderness.
      - (1) He had already conquered Satan.
        - (a) Luke 4:1-14
    - ii) Satan still hounded Him all the way to the cross, but Jesus had no fear or dread of Satan.
      - (1) John 12:31
  - d) What was it that broke the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ?
    - i) Was it the betrayal of Judas?
    - ii) Was it the failure of the disciples?
      - (1) Jesus was disappointed, but there is a difference between disappointment and dread.
  - e) The pollution of sin was in that cup.
    - i) The Bible says that Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, and yet He was without sin.
      - (1) Hebrews 4:15

- ii) In order for Him to redeem us, our sin had to be placed upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - (1) 2 Corinthians 5:21
- iii) The sin of the ages was in that cup.
  - (1) Our sin was in that cup.
    - (a) Not some of our sin, but all of our sin.
    - (2) Every vile thought, every wicked deed, every hurtful and hateful thing was in that cup.
    - (3) All of the sins of the past and all of the sins of the future were in that cup.
      - (a) Rape, sodomy, child abuse, Hitler's gas ovens, murder, blasphemy, etc., were in that cup.
- iv) The Lord Jesus didn't just bear sin, but He became sin.
  - (1) He didn't sin; He never sinned.
  - (2) But He was made sin for us.
    - (a) He carried that sin to the cross.
- v) We may not understand what sin is, but Jesus Christ knew.
  - (1) Jesus had seen sin turn angels into demons and men into beasts.
  - (2) Sin is a clenched fist in the face of God.
- vi) Jesus knew that when He drank that cup, He would be numbered with the transgressors.
  - (1) He, whose name is holy and who is the antithesis of sin, would become sin.
- f) The punishment of sin was in that cup.
  - i) Jesus knew that the punishment, not of some sin but of all sin and not of some people but all people, would be upon Him.
    - (1) One man, the God-man, would bear it all.
      - (a) When He did, God the Father would have to treat Him as if He had committed the sins of all of the people.
        - (i) Romans 8:32
        - (ii) Isaiah 53:10
      - (b) When Jesus took our place, God the Father, in justice, had to treat Him as He would treat us.
  - ii) Jesus knew that He would suffer the very fires of Hell.
    - (1) Jesus would receive God's wrath.
  - iii) Jesus Christ, who had been in the bosom of the Father from eternity, would be separated from God on that cross.
    - (1) Matthew 27:46
      - (a) God is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity.
        - (i) God the Father had to turn His back on God the Son.
  - iv) At the cross, the sins of the world were distilled and the eternities were compressed.
    - (1) Jesus, being infinite, bore in a finite period of time what we, being finite, would bear in an infinite period of time.

- (a) Jesus Christ suffered an eternity of Hell on that cross.
  - v) Only those in Hell can begin to know the price that Jesus paid, but they will never know the extent because they are only paying for their sin.
    - (1) Jesus paid for all of the sin of all of the people for all time.
      - (a) No wonder Jesus said, "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me."
        - (i) Matthew 26:39
- 3) THE CONSUMPTION OF THE CUP (LUKE 22:42)
- a) The Lord Jesus drank it to the bitter dregs.
  - b) This was not some charade; this was real.
  - c) If we don't understand why Jesus shrank back, then we don't know what was in the cup.
    - i) In His humanity and in His holiness, seeing the vileness and the filth of sin, Jesus asked if there were some other way.
      - (1) The silence from Heaven said that there was no other way.
    - ii) In His holy humanity, Jesus shrank back.
      - (1) But in His divine love, He said, "Nevertheless, not My will, but Thine be done."
        - (a) Luke 22:42
  - d) Jesus paid a price.
    - i) We will never know the agony that the Son of God endured on the cross.
    - ii) Jesus didn't have to die; He had a choice.
      - (1) John 10:18
    - iii) Jesus was the only man who ever chose to die.
      - (1) Romans 6:23
        - (a) There was no sin in Him.
          - (i) There would have been no death in Him.
        - (2) Some may say that those who commit suicide choose to die.
          - (a) They just choose to die a little sooner.
            - (i) Hebrews 9:27
    - iv) Jesus was the only man who could say, "No man takes My life from Me. I lay it down of Myself."
      - (1) John 10:18
  - e) Luke 22:42
    - i) Satan became Satan.
      - (1) Isaiah 14:13-14
      - (2) Satan said to God the Father, "Not Your will, but mine be done."
    - ii) But Jesus said in His humanity, though He were very God to very God, "Not My will, but Thine be done."
    - iii) Adam, following Satan, in the Garden of Eden said, "Not Your will, but mine," and ruined the human race.
      - (1) In another garden, Jesus (the last Adam) said, "Not My will, but Thine," and redeemed the human race.

- (a) That was the consumption of the cup.
  - iv) The Lord willingly, voluntarily, and victoriously said, “Not My will but Thine.”
    - (1) Had He said no, everyone one of us would have gone to Hell forever.
    - (2) Had He said no, all of those who had already gone to the place of redemption, where Jesus had promised to pay, would have had to come out and go to Hell.
    - (3) It was because Jesus suffered, bled, and died on the cross that we can be redeemed.
  - (a) Jesus took our sin and carried it to the cross.
  - f) God will never overlook sin; He cannot overlook sin.
    - i) God is holy, and by His holiness He has sworn that sin will be punished.
      - (1) All sin is punished; no sin goes unpunished.
    - ii) If God were to let one-half of one sin go unpunished, then God would no longer be holy.
      - (1) The chief attribute of God is not love; it is holiness.
      - (2) God must punish sin.
  - g) The cross is God’s way to punish sin and forgive the sinner at the same time.
    - i) And that is by having an innocent, sinless sin-bearer take sin and carry it to the cross.
      - (1) 2 Corinthians 5:21
  - h) There is another cup that we drink.
    - i) That is the Lord’s Supper.
    - ii) Before Jesus went into Gethsemane, He was at the Last Supper with His disciples.
      - (1) Luke 22:20
    - iii) Jesus drank the cup of sin that we might have the cup of redemption.
- 4) THE COMMUNION OF THE CUP
- a) We drink the cup of communion because we meet Jesus here.
    - i) He takes our sin.
      - (1) He drinks it down.
    - ii) We take His righteousness.
      - (1) We drink it in.
  - b) God forbid that we should fail to be moved by Gethsemane.
    - i) Matthew 26:38
      - (1) Had not an angel come to minister to Him, He would have died there.
    - ii) When He perspired, the sweat was blood.
      - (1) Luke 22:44
      - (2) The minute capillaries had ruptured.
      - (3) He was in such extreme duress that blood dripped from His brow.
    - iii) Sometimes Jesus would pray standing, sometimes He would lift His face to Heaven to pray, and sometimes Jesus would kneel and pray.
      - (1) But in Gethsemane, He fell on His face.

- iv) Can you imagine what He must have looked like when Judas led that group into the garden?
  - (1) His face was matted with blood and dirt.
  - (2) His heart was broken.
    - (a) This was the way they found Him when Judas planted that kiss of shame upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
- v) Matthew 26:37-38
  - (1) The word “heavy” here has the idea of being separated or alone.
  - (2) Before the nails ever went into the hands of Jesus, they had already come into His soul.
- vi) Gethsemane was the vestibule of Calvary.
  - (1) The victory really was won in Gethsemane, not on Calvary.
    - (a) It was paid for at Calvary.
    - (b) It was won in Gethsemane.
- vii) Jesus knew what He would go through.
  - (1) Matthew 26:38
    - (a) In this verse, the word “exceeding” has the idea of being surrounded with no way out, no escape, no hope, and absolute abject suffering.
- viii) Jesus spoke of His agony.
  - (1) The place where He prayed was called, “The Rock of Agony.”
    - (a) The “agon” was an athletic contest in Greek.
      - (i) It was a wrestling match.
  - (2) Jesus wrestled.
    - (a) He didn’t wrestle with God the Father.
      - (i) The great desire of His heart was to please the Father.
    - (b) He didn’t wrestle with Satan.
      - (i) He never needed to.
      - (ii) He had absolute authority over Satan.
    - (c) Jesus wrestled with Himself.
      - (i) There was His holy humanity and His divine love, and there was a contest.
        - 1. But love won.
          - a. Love paid the price in dark Gethsemane.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) There is a story that comes down to us through the ages.
  - i) It is said that Nero had forty men in his army.
    - (1) These forty men were wrestlers.
      - (a) They would go to the agon to wrestle for Nero.
      - (b) They were the finest athletes in all of Rome.
        - (i) They would chant, “We are forty wrestlers wrestling for thee, O Emperor. To win for thee the victory and for thee the victor’s crown.”

- ii) Word came to Nero that some in the army had become Christians.
    - (1) To be a Christian was a crime worthy of death.
    - (2) Nero sent word to his commander-in-chief, Vespasian, to execute any Christian found in his troops.
  - iii) Vespasian told the wrestlers that if any confessed to being a Christian, then they would be put to death.
  - iv) When he asked if there were any Christians, he wasn't prepared for what happened.
    - (1) As one man, forty men stepped forward.
      - (a) All forty of the wrestlers had given their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ.
      - (b) They believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
  - v) Vespasian asked them to renounce their faith.
    - (1) Not one of them moved.
    - (2) He thought, surely, they would renounce their faith.
      - (a) It was in the middle of winter; Vespasian built a fire.
      - (b) He took from them their helmets, breastplates, shoes, shirts, and undergarments.
        - (i) He stripped them down to absolutely nothing in sub-zero weather and turned them away in the darkness.
      - (c) He told them that they would stay out in the darkness until they froze.
      - (d) If any of them decided to renounce Christ, then all they would have to do was come to the fire.
  - vi) Vespasian heard the chant that he had heard many times, but it was different.
    - (1) They chanted, "We are forty wrestlers wrestling for Thee, O Christ. To win for Thee the victory and for Thee the victor's crown."
    - (2) As the cold grew deeper, they continued to chant, but it grew weaker and weaker.
      - (a) They were being numbed by the cold.
  - vii) The chanting stopped, and Vespasian saw the form of one of the soldiers coming across the ice, turning his back on Jesus Christ and coming to the fire.
    - (1) Vespasian thought the others would follow soon.
      - (a) Instead, he heard in the darkness, "Thirty-nine wrestlers wrestling for Thee, O Christ. To win for Thee the victory and for Thee the victor's crown."
  - viii) Vespasian took from his head his helmet, from his chest his armor, from his back his shirt, from his feet his shoes, and ran toward the thirty-nine saying, "Forty wrestlers wrestling for Thee, O Christ. To win for Thee the victory and for Thee the victor's crown."
- b) The Lord Jesus wrestled for you.
- i) Do you want to wrestle for Him?



- (1) Are you a soldier of the cross?
- c) Gethsemane tells us two things:
  - i) We should hate sin.
  - ii) We should love Jesus Christ.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16