

## Exchanging Desires

We are born w/out God, with a sin nature in the devil's world of influence. We naturally attach our desires to false means of achieving happiness (+H) based upon our Old Man beliefs. We have to go through a process of transformation to be freed from our Old Man Belief System to embrace a supernatural New Man belief system.

Jesus/disciples have instituted the Eucharist, sang a hymn & gone to the Mt. of Olives. Jesus explains what the night will bring & their denials. He comes to Gethsemane, takes Peter, James & John off to pray. As they go off alone Jesus begins to feel overwhelmed and enters into the final phase of testing in His life.

Vs 37-38	Temptation to Despair	grieved to point of death
Vs 39-41	Test of Desire	let this cup pass from me
Vs 42-45	Triumph of Decision	Your will be done

### **Tempted to Despair – Dreading the Cross & Death**

**Vs 37** began to be grieved & distressed – he had not shown his distress until now and until He was in private with His close comrades.

**Vs 38** said to them – **perilupo** – grieved all around - deeply grieved; my soul to point of death – watch with me – **gregoreo** – be alert & focused in prayer

- a. Jesus had been explaining His D,B,R & now the time is upon Him
- b. He maintained composure until He was alone with His closest confidants
  - Even He had a small group with whom He shared His pain & struggles
- c. He was anticipating & dreading the suffering about to come to His life.
- d. He refused to allow the pain & sorrow to stop Him from doing God's will

### **Test of His Desire – His desire cp with GF's desire**

**Vs 39** having gone a little farther, He fell on His face & prayed, saying

**Vs 39** 1<sup>st</sup> CC – ei + ind. If/true – My Father, if it is possible & it is; since it is possible

- a. 1CC assumes the statement to be true (since it is possible for this cup to pass)
- b. Jesus knows that nothing is impossible with GF – He controls circumstances
- c. He knew there was a chance to avoid the cross and He was taking His last shot.

**Vs 39** Let this cup pass by – Aor. Impv – passionate statement of His desire

- a. Aor Impv here is an impassioned tone making an urgent request to avoid the cross
- b. Jesus had a normal desire to avoid the pain & suffering that He knew was coming
- c. He expresses His desire **thelo** but more so seeks GF's desire

**Vs 40-41** returns to find the 3 disciples asleep – were you not able to stay alert w me?

- a. Watch & pray so that you don't enter into temptation (the denials He had predicted)
- b. Lk 22:45 – sleeping from sorrow – the news & drama of this day has worn them out and they have decided to escape the pressure of the moment by sleeping

### **Triumph of Decision – He exchanged the objects of His desire**

**Vs 42** 2<sup>nd</sup> prayer: 1<sup>st</sup> CC – ei/ind/ouk – since it is not possible for this to pass away

- a. From 1<sup>st</sup> prayer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jesus had gotten His answer – GF's desire was the cross
- b. He changes His prayer – 1CC – since it is not possible for this to pass away

**Vs 42** unless I drink it – Let your will be done – Aor Impv.

- a. He recognizes that He cannot avoid the cross, must go through it to do GF's will
- b. Having accepted reality of GF's will, He passionately affirmed His obedience.
- c. Aor Impv here is an impassioned tone in agreement with GF's will – let's roll!!

**Vs 44** prayed the same prayer a third time – He is on board with GF's will

- He changed His passionate desire from avoiding the cross to GF's will.

## **Exchanging Desires – Examine, Express, Exchange**

### **1. It is normal human behavior to desire pleasant circumstances and to desire to avoid circumstances that cause us pain and suffering – even Jesus had this desire.**

Mt 6:13 – lead us not into temptation & deliver us from the evil one.

2Cor 12:7-10 thorn in the flesh – prayed for its removal until he saw it was a gift

### **2. There is a distinction between normal appropriate desires & sinful desires.**

Normal – desires as part of God's design of the human body, soul & spirit

Sinful – normal desires attached to wrong objects using wrong methods that have become demands based on believing they are rightfully ours & necessary for +H.

- Normal motivation: pursue pleasure & prevent pain like every other creature
- OSN causes desire to deceive us to believe gratification is our right & necessary

Our Right – desire becomes demand, expectation; Necessary – no +H w/out it

### **3. God commands that we give up sinful desires in exchange for spiritual desires.**

Gal5:16-17 desires of the flesh cp desires of GHS – choose to walk by the Spirit

- Choose to listen & obey GHS – recalls the word & makes application to life

Rom 6:12 – don't allow sin to rule you; Rom13:14 no provision/flesh to obey its desires;

Eph 4:22 put off OM; Tit 2:12 deny ungodliness & worldly lusts

### **4. God desires & enables us to surrender our normal human desires to His will**

Not my will (thelo – desire, plan) but your will be done – my will surrendered to God's

**2Cor 12:7-10** Paul surrendered his desire for health to God's desire that he suffer

**Jam 1:2-4** Imagine joyful scenarios that God will bring out of our adversities

**1Tim 6:6-10** surrender desire to be rich and choose to be content with basic necessities

**Mt 19:16-26** Rich young ruler: sell possessions, give to poor, follow me – he was sad

- a. It is not sin to pursue normal human desires w/in the bounds of God's revealed will
- b. Yet, it is not God's desire for us to be focused on or pursue the things of the world.

**Col 3:1-2** – seek the things above, focus your mind on things above not on things of earth

- c. His desire is based on true life, love & +H is found only in God not in earthly things.
- d. God desires us to experience the highest & best, not waste our lives on the lesser

### **5. God blesses us in time/eternity for exchanging normal desires for His desire for us.**

Jesus had every right to want his own safety but gave it up for the joy set before Him

Mt 6:19-21 don't store treasures on the earth but in heaven – treasure = heart is

### **6. Examine your desire, express your desire, exchange your desire**

Examine                      Is it sinful? Is it God's will? Is it His highest/best?

Express                        Ask for what you want; wait on God's answer/timing

Exchange                     Surrender your will to His highest – not my will, but your be done

- Detach your heart from the worldly & reattach your heart to the Lord