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| 1Mark 14:32-72 Sermon Outline 11/19/23 “The Darkest Night In History” “The Darkest Hour…”It’s a famous phrase from WWII commonly attributed to the prime minister Great Britain at time Winston Churchill Originally: “Darkest hour before the dawn”  -referred to darkest time right before dawn Famous speech 1940 German invasion of France/France’s downfall = “darkest hour of French history” But…not darkest hour or night Darkest hour = Agony over cross in garden this passage right here is darkest period in history  | 2Millions of lost lives in WWII cannot compare to infinite cost that Son of God have to pay for countless sins for countless sinners in history Darkest time for Lord, yet it produced the brightest sunshine the world has ever seen REVIEW: Sort of Part 2 from last week Continue Jesus’ passion week Judas came at opportune time for chief priests/scribes to betray Jesus to them vs. Faithful Mary who showed lavish affection and devotion at home of Simon the Leper Then next day/Thursday = celeb. Passover meal But…disciples will all abandon Him and one will betray Him |
| 3BODY: V. 32 goes to Garden V. 33 = takes inner circle of disciples  -Then became very distressed and troubled V. 34 *“my soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch”* The word for deeply grieved is *perilupos*, lit. Jesus was surrounded by sorrows Jesus then goes a little beyond them, falls to ground and prays if possible, hour might pass by Him The darkness closes in on Him.Thick black darkness surrounds Jesus as He is in Valley of Shadow of Death V. 36 *“Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me…”*  | 4Jesus’ soul not in anguish: Not in betrayal by JudasNot in abandonment by disciples Not in pain from scourging Not painful trial Not even pain of death (because He knew God would not leave Him in the grave to rot) But because He would have to bear the Father’s wrath and be treated as a sinner Cup = symbol of wrath and Jesus was to drink it dry Countless, infinite number of sins Son of God would bear and take on as if He committed them Jesus, the Son of God, second member Trinity never experienced separation from Father and it terrified Him  |
| 5He was so in distress that Luke 22:44 = sweating drops like blood Process = maximum distress where subcutaneous capillaries and burst so that sweat is mixed with blood We know that bond between Father and Son will never be actually broken because they share same nature and are the same God Yet because Jesus was going to bear the eternal blame for sinners and take humanity’s sin for himself, He would FEEL completely abandoned and estranged from the Trinity because of the darkness It will be like He was separated from the Father! So, Jesus pleaded with Father if redemption could be accomplished ANY OTHER WAY FOR REDEMPTION PLEASE FATHER! On top of that Satan was assaulting Jesus with fiercest temptations to avoid cross to rule/reign  | 6Satan didn’t want Jesus to go to the cross, because that would mean His doomLuke 22:53 “This hour” = “Authority of Darkness” That’s why Mark 8 Peter tried to stop Jesus, What did Jesus respond? “Get Behind Me Satan” Important to know difference between you and Jesus in temptation You are tempted from inside out Jesus tempted from outside forces You have present evil and sin pulling you to temptation Jesus has none of that internally = completely holy  -Has never committed sin nor is He able to  -Impossible for Jesus to sin Hebrews: “holy, undefiled, separate from sinners” Hab. 1:13 God’s *“eyes are too pure to look upon evil”* |
| 7He never….ever…knew sin In fact, if Jesus wasn’t in despair = question whether He was truly holy or was truly God!But…Jesus being absolutely obedient to His Father’s will said in later half V. 36: “Yet, not what I will, but what You will”When He says, “Not what I will, what You will” = making distinction between wills. Jesus not talking about divine will submitting to the Father’s will, but his human will submitting to the divine will. The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit all have one nature which means they have one willIt is not the Son’s divine will submitting to the Father’s divine will because they are the same will but Jesus’ human will submitting to the divine will  | 8He submits to the Father in His humanity because Jesus has both a divine nature, and a human nature united in one person Which means He possesses a divine will and a human will. V. 37 Jesus checks on disciples finds them sleeping!Late hour + feasting/wine = sleep But also Luke adds that they slept because of “sorrow” Trying to drown out sorrow through sleep You’ve done that before right? Sometimes you want to forget sadness by going to sleep Jesus just warned them 3 x = be on the alert/watch!*gregoreo* = Gregory = stay alertAgain V. 34: remain here and “keep watch” = same word  |
| 9Jesus to Peter: “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?” “Simon” not Peter = Peter is not being a rock, he is weak V. 38 (read) We need God’s help and power to overcome temptation and sin because as Gal. says *“the flesh sets its desires against the spirit”*  or as Paul’s struggle of the old man and the new man in Romans 7 Peter looking back to slumber 1 Pet. 4:7 *“The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound thinking and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”*Jesus goes away a second time to pray same thing  | 10But what He told disciples went in one ear and out the other because He comes to check 2nd time V. 40 = sleeping again, eyes heavy, did not know what to answer Him Jesus prays third time V. 41 *“Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!”*Jesus checking 3 times = foreshadow of Peter’s three denials Peter = failed to stay awake and alert and will fail Jesus by denying Him The darkness grows deeper into the night V. 43 “Immediately” = there’s one of those “immediatelys” again = speed  |
| 11Immediately Judas comes with chief priests/scribes/roman soldiers w/ swords and clubs Mark reminds you of the sting of betrayal again Judas is not a stranger but “one of the twelve”Betrays Jesus w/ a kiss V. 45 “Rabbi”= My Teacher! Verb = kiss = prolonged/repeated kiss Kiss of death/betrayal V. 46 Mobsters lay hands on Jesus and seizes Him but one of Jesus’ disciples draws his sword and slashes ear off high priest’s slave Jn. 18 tells us it was Peter cutting off ear of Malchus Peter = proving undying allegiance to Jesus in act of bravado Likely aiming to kill by slicing off head  | 12Peter = fisherman, untrained Likely missed and slave moved his head to duck Jesus responds VV. 48-49 (read) They had many opportunities to seize Jesus but they couldn’t because it wasn’t time for Him V. 50 = all disciples flee V. 51 = Odd detail = young man following w/nothing but linen sheet over his naked body Young man probably aroused from sleep at night and checked out commotion Soldiers probably thought he was one of Jesus’ disciples and tried to grab them But escaped pulling away from linen sheet and fled naked Who is this? Some say it’s John Mark, author himself  |
| 13Certainly would have been young man, maybe 15 or 16 at time But ultimately we don’t knowSo then why this verse 51? A: To describe the utter chaos of the situation and to stress that Jesus is utterly abandoned and all alone Also to show that like this young man’s nakedness disciples flee with nothing but their nakedness and shame They don’t have Christ, They don’t have Boldness, They don’t have CourageThey don’t have Convictions The only thing they can offer to Jesus is a night gown, a linen sheet Like this man, their true selves are revealed, naked and ashamed like Adam and Eve in the garden  | 14V. 53 = Third Markan sandwich Contrast between Peter and Jesus’ trialPeter to Jesus to Peter Faithlessness of Peter contrasted with faithfulness of Christ to redemptive mission But the darkness grows yet deeper V. 53 Forsaken Jesus is led away to high priest V. 54 Peter is following at distance, warming himself by fire Far away enough to dissociate but close enough to witness We come to Jesus’ trial before Council = Sanhedrin, ruling elite of Jerusalem V. 55 chief priests and all Sanhedrin trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death  |
| 15They are unsuccessful VV. 56-57 = bringing false testimony against Jesus but again it was unsuccessful Jesus = silent and did not answer V. 58 = example of one who stood up Reference back to John chapter 2 “destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up again” Misconstruing His Words, simply not what He said Frustrated at Jesus’ silence V. 60 high priest stands up, comes forward to Jesus and questions Him, “Do you not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?” V. 61 Jesus kept silent and did not answer Is. 53:7 = fulfilled Messiah would be like a lamb led to the slaughter  | 16Finally high priest asks the question of Jesus saying“Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” V. 62 “I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, AND COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.” High priest in response to Jesus’ response tears clothes in anger = blasphemy = not only Messiah but claiming to be equal with God Dan. 7:13 “What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?”V. 64 Murderous mob yells out He is deserving of death! Death to this blasphemer! Crucify Him! V. 65 Began to spit, blindfold, strick with feasts = prophecy! + Roman soldiers slapping him = disrespectful  |
| 17Brutal, violent, murderous trial that was illegal by every means Deut. 16:18-20 =Day not night Wait 24 hours between sentencing and execution to allow sober reflection on seriousness + possible further witnesses and evidence Trials not to be conducted day before feast They broke all of that Worthless men = thugs Worse than mafia because they condemned to death innocent Son of God while claiming to be obeying God Jesus’ trial ends, but Peter’s resumes V. 66 Peter was below in courtyard and one of servant girls of high priest came and sees Peter  | 18“You also were with Jesus the Nazarene” Peter denies it *“I neither know nor understand what you are talking about”*By saying “I neither know nor understand” = stressing absolutely no connection to Lord either by knowledge or experience 1rst denial Peter tries to get away from servant girl and consequently away from Jesus by going to the porch But servant girl tells bystanders “This is one of them!” 2nd Denial Then after a little while bystanders recognize Peter too (Matt. tells us by his accent) Peter starts cursing and swearing he doesn’t know Jesus = curse = anathema = invoke curse from God  |
| 193rd Denial V. 72 Rooster then crows twicePeter remembers and weeps Jesus silent before His accusers, Peter vocal in his denials Jesus giving a true testimonyPeter giving false testimony Night has become truly the darkest night in history w/ agonizing reality of bearing the wrath of God for sinners, being betrayed by his very own, abandoned by his very own, and condemned to death as an innocent man God revealing how dark this night was for Jesus to show you that no man can withstand what Jesus went through.  | 20No mere mortal can go through being betrayed by one of his own, being denied by His closest follower, and still being unwavering in a false trial that is designed to put one to death And no mere mortal CERTAINLY cannot go through the agony in the garden to overcome the temptation to avoid the cross, let alone comprehend it Yes, Mark shows utter abandonment of Jesus by disciples and thick darkness Jesus is in. But…He shows it to stress the fact that only the God-man, only the Son of Man, only the Son of God can accomplish what He was sent to earth to accomplish. Heb. 5:7 = looking back at agony of garden *“He, in the days of His flesh, offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.*  |
| 21*Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation.”*Does God every learn anything? Does God need to be made perfect? Of course not!But Jesus went through all of that to accomplish your redemption as the God-man!BLOW AFTER BLOW AFTER BLOW, HE TOOK FOR YOU!You cannot satisfy the wrath of God, only God can!You cannot cancel out the eternal penalty for your sins, only God can! You cannot forgive your own sins, only God can! You cannot atone for your own sins, only God can!And you cannot produce eternal life, only God can!  | 22The only thing you can do is to offer up your nakedness and shame The only thing you can give to him is your dirty linen cloth The darkness that Jesus had to go through is meant to take away any hope that you might have relying on the strength of your flesh to please GodIt is to show that if even the best of the apostles, Peter, failed and denied Jesus, on your own, you will too!Mark is dashing all your hopes in yourself and making you hope and trust in the Son of God, who loved you and gave Himself for you Yes a thick cloud of darkness surrounds this passage…but as the night is darkest before the dawn, a ray of light will overtake the darkness   |
| 23Rom. 5:20 *“where sin increased, grace abounded all the more”*If you are here today trusting in your own will, power, strength or inherent goodness…know that there is absolutely no way you will be able to stand before the wrath of God for your sins One day you will die and all your nakedness and shame will be exposed Whatever linen cloth you tried to cover your self will be burnt away like moth in a flame There is nothing that can escape the judgment of God His eyes are too holy, too pure to allow sin and sinners to go unpunished Just as Jesus gave Peter a penetrating gaze when he denied Him, nothing will be hidden from God’s holy gaze  | 24Yet, if you follow Jesus all the way to the cross where you lay down your whole life before the foot of the cross,His death will be life to you He will take your filthy garment of shame and clothe you with His robe of righteousness!Even if you have once denied Jesus, God can forgive you of your sins of even blasphemy against the Son. Jesus will bear all your sorrows All your shame All your iniquity All your transgressions Al your sins because He is a merciful and compassionate God  |
| 25He will not only bear your sins He will intercede for you eternally as a great high priest to enable you to be faithful to Him until the very end When you have no strength to lift yourself up, He will stand you up and carry you in His arms Isaiah 40:29-31 *“He gives power to the weary, And to him who lacks vigor He increases might.* *Though youths grow weary and tired, And choice young men stumble badly, Yet those who hope in Yahweh Will gain new power; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and not get tired; They will walk and not become weary.”*This was the darkest night for Jesusbutthe brightest day for all who come to Him in faith  | 26 |