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| 1  Mark 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 | 2  Millions 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 |
| 3  BODY:  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…”* | 4  Jesus’ soul not in anguish:  Not in betrayal by Judas  Not 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 |
| 5  He 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 | 6  Satan didn’t want Jesus to go to the cross, because that would mean His doom  Luke 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”* |
| 7  He 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 will  It 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 | 8  He 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 alert  Again V. 34: remain here and “keep watch” = same word |
| 9  Jesus 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 | 10  But 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 |
| 11  Immediately 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 | 12  Peter = 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 |
| 13  Certainly would have been young man, maybe 15 or 16 at time  But ultimately we don’t know  So 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 Courage  They 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 | 14  V. 53 = Third Markan sandwich  Contrast between Peter and Jesus’ trial  Peter 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 |
| 15  They 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 | 16  Finally 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 |
| 17  Brutal, 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 |
| 19  3rd Denial  V. 72 Rooster then crows twice  Peter remembers and weeps  Jesus silent before His accusers, Peter vocal in his denials  Jesus giving a true testimony  Peter 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. | 20  No 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! | 22  The 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 God  It 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 |
| 23  Rom. 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 | 24  Yet, 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 |
| 25  He 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 Jesus  but  the brightest day for all who come to Him in faith | 26 |