

Christ Journey to the Cross
Wk 2- Commitment and the Garden of Gethsemane

PPT Game: Count the Cost

After going through this game do you think it's important for us to understand how much the things that are most important to us cost? Last week we looked at Judas and the willingness Christ had to reach him despite the things he had done. As Judas betrayed Christ he really didn't count the cost, he really didn't estimate the commitment he made for 30 pieces of silver. Now that we have moved from Christ betrayal into his prayer time in the garden we see Christ commitment to us, and the decision to pay for our sin, was thought through and wrestled with.

What types of things or what people do you have commitments toward...? How important are those commitments to you...? How would you gage that...(time, etc)? We said last week in this series we're going to be looking at Christ journey to the cross from some other perspectives instead of the traditional, Jesus died for my sins perspective. Even though that's true, we want to look at it from these other perspectives because the whole "Jesus died for my sins" kind of becomes a thing we do, a line we say rather than truly impacting our lives. We take for granted what really happened as Christ journeyed to the cross, and what was involved. We miss out on the fact that Christ wrestled through this decision and made a firm commitment to us and to the Father after carefully calculating what's involved. This clip will begin to give a picture of that...

Passion of the Christ, Garden Clip

After the last supper Christ and his disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Whoever owned the garden would have been wealthy and allowed Christ and his disciples to use it as a place for prayer and/or retreats. There was disciple by the name of Mark who was there that night. Mark was about 14 @ the time and listen as he describes what happened that night...

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Mk. 14:32-44

All the disciples go to the garden, he tells all of them but Peter, James, and John to stay and pray there. He then takes his three closest disciples and allows them to see what He's about to endure. The scripture tells us is that Jesus was deeply distressed and troubled. The word distressed implies that Christ was not only heartbroken over what he was about to endure but depressed as well. This was deep inward pain that he could hardly bare. He knew what was about to take place and he goes so far to tell the disciples that his "soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death". Pretty often we throw the phrase around, "I'm starving to death", "I'm bored to death". This wasn't a phrase that Jesus threw around, it appears that the agony he was experiences put him on the verge of death. Some even believe at this point Christ may have

begun to experience a nervous breakdown. Luke was another one of the disciples. He was also a doctor by trade; listen to how he describes Christ condition....

Lk 22:41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, Lk 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Lk 22:43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. Lk 22:44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

There are a couple things I want you to see here, one is that He uses the word "Father". In one sense it's not really a big deal for us, we're like "yea Jesus is God's son, so He calls Him father". But what we don't see is that, he actually says "abba father", Abba father means "dearest daddy". It's the most intimate expression between and his son. He's saying "please dad, save me, don't let this happen, is there any other way?" Think about it this way,

Pastor Ken's boat illustration....

The second thing I want you to see is that He says take this "cup". What does the "cup" stand for...? The cup is referring to the sin of the entire world. Essentially Jesus is saying if there is any other way, please let me know". It's at this point where he reaches His decision, "not my will but yours be done". Luke describes the next few minutes as so painful for Jesus that if the angel hadn't shown up he would have died right there. Luke tells us that it appeared that he sweat drops of blood. This is a medical condition called hematidrosis. It is so serious that there are not any other cases where people have survived. Essentially what happens is that the person is under so much stress that a number of blood vessels within their body actually burst and the blood is released through the sweat glands.

I get that it's pretty gross, but what I want you to understand is that Jesus willfully decided to commit his life for your life and mine. It was an extreme situation, the questions he could have wrestled through, "is it worth it, are they worth it, is it fair, how can I possibly take all their sin". But we did, he wrestled through all that, and came to the decision that God's will was more important than His. He came to the decision that we were worth it.

As we close tonight I want to ask you, who' will is more important to you, yours or Gods. Most of the time we wrestle through a difficult decision and we work through depression, anxiety, agony, excitement, etc and we end up doing what we think is best. We make the best decision we can; on the other hand our best decision is not always the same as God's. Christ valued God's will over His own. Do we? The second thing I want you to understand is that Christ carefully counted the cost to obey. This wasn't a quick decision, where God was like "I want you to die for them" and Christ was like "no problem, anytime". He thought through it, he wrestled through it, and he prayed through it. The outcome was that you and I have the opportunity to come back to God, (gospel) and He believed that we are worth it. With Christ understanding the cost involved, and deciding that His commitment to you for the Father was worth the cost, let me ask you what has following Him cost you? At some point it will cost you to live for Him, maybe a friend, a boyfriend/girlfriend, money, fame, your life. When it comes to that point (if it hasn't already) who's will do you value more.

Suggested Discussion Concepts:

1. See attached handout for options you can work through
2. What do you think are some of the things that Christ either saw or went through that night in Gethsemane?
 - Why do you think Christ came to the conclusion you and I were worth it? (Heb. 12:2)