

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Luke 22:39-46

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. We continue to read Luke chapter 22. Today we'll read verses 39 to 46.

Jesus came out, and only here did the final Passover feast that Jesus ate with His disciples officially come to an end. Earlier we mentioned that throughout the whole Passover feast, there would be four processes of drinking wine, or four cups. The first cup was when Jesus, at the beginning, offered blessing and thanksgiving for the whole feast. Afterward, they began to eat the bitter herbs and drink water. After the bitter herbs were eaten, they lifted the cup and drank the second cup, and the second cup was called the bitter cup. After the bitter cup was drunk, Jesus began to break the bread and distribute the bread for the disciples to eat, dipping it in the sauce. It was at this time that, after Judas received the bread, he left to betray Jesus.

After Judas left, Jesus again lifted the cup. This was the third cup, that is, the cup of blessing. It was when Jesus lifted the third cup that Jesus changed the Passover feast, the Jewish feast they had observed year after year, into the Lord's Supper. He once again broke the bread, and then said, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." After these three cups, Jesus began to speak many words. Here in the Gospel of Luke, it only records that Jesus encouraged them to serve others, also foretold that Simon Peter would deny Him three times, and also told them that when they continued going out to preach in the future, they should take a money bag, take a knapsack, and learn to protect themselves. But much in between is still omitted; thank the Lord, when John wrote the Gospel of John, he supplemented all these things.

Near the end of John chapter 13, after Jesus established a new commandment to love one another, chapters 14, 15, 16, all the way to chapter 17, brought forth

Jesus' prayer for the disciples, four and a half chapters of abundant verses. Actually, this is also what each of us needs to do every Lord's Day today: we come into the church, remember the Lord, eat the bread and drink the cup, and then we need to hear God's word. Then, when the whole feast ended, they would drink the fourth cup as the conclusion. At this time, they would sing hymns together, usually Psalms 115 to 118. In Mark 14:26, it records that Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Verses 39-40: "Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, 'Pray that you may not enter into temptation.'"

Of course, in the other Gospels, it points out that they went to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. From the upper room of Mark, that is, Mark's house, where they ate the Passover feast, to this Garden of Gethsemane, which was also the garden of Mark's house, it was about 1.2 kilometers, and it could be reached in about twenty minutes on foot. Because when Jesus and the disciples were often in Jerusalem, they were received by Mark's mother. Afterward, they also often went to the Garden of Gethsemane belonging to Mark's house. It was an olive grove, and the word Gethsemane means pressing. After the olives are harvested, the olives are pressed, and the olive oil is pressed out. This also tells us that when Jesus brought the disciples up to the Garden of Gethsemane, He Himself was like that olive, being intensely pressed by all kinds of circumstances, and much oil was pressed out.

When Jesus came to that place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." Because the hour of darkness was about to come. Although they might not have fully understood what Jesus had said to them at the feast, they at least knew that a great matter was about to happen, and therefore everyone was very sorrowful. When one is sorrowful, it is very easy to enter into temptation, so Jesus encouraged them to pray. Prayer is not only petition; more importantly, prayer is to be joined to the Lord, to have regular fellowship and intimate fellowship

with God. In this way, we can draw upon the power from heaven, so that we will not fall into temptation.

Verse 41: “And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed,”

From Mark 14:33, we can see that Jesus left eight disciples outside the garden, and brought Peter, James, and John into the Garden of Gethsemane. Afterward, He went away by Himself alone, about a stone’s throw away, that is, about twenty or thirty feet. Jesus’ arrangement was very meaningful: the eight disciples left outside the garden were like those in the outer court of the tabernacle; Peter, James, and John, who had always followed Jesus and were very close to Jesus, were like those in the Holy Place; and the place where Jesus Himself alone knelt down to pray was the Holy of Holies.

Verse 42: “saying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.’”

On the one hand, Jesus wanted the disciples to watch and pray; and He Himself knelt before the Father even more. He was in extreme sorrow and prayed with loud cries. What did He pray? “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me.” This cup is the cup of God’s wrath. He knew the difficulty of this cup, and He knew all the things that would happen next. We must never overlook or underestimate the difficulty of this cup.

As far as His body was concerned, Jesus knew that His body would be hung on the cross. The cross was a very cruel punishment at that time. The body would suffer extreme pain, and one would not die immediately. His body would be scourged, His head would wear a crown of thorns, and His body would be hung on the tree. But these physical sufferings, compared with the suffering of His soul, were insignificant.

Jesus had never known sin in His whole life and had never committed a single sin. Yet on the cross, the sins of all people would be placed upon Him. To us, greed, jealousy, and lying are often things we are accustomed to, but Jesus had never known these sins. And on the cross, not only these small sins that we usually think of as commonly committed, but even the most wicked sins such as murder, arson, rape, and homicide, were all placed upon Him one by one, so that every person who has committed sin, no matter how great the sin, as long as he is willing to repent, can return to the Father through the blood of Jesus.

From being One who had never known sin, to then having all people's sins placed upon Him on the cross—how heavy this was! The physical pain was already hard to bear, but the burden of bearing sin in His soul was even harder to bear. But the most difficult thing was that Jesus, on the earth, had never been separated from the Father for even one day. What He thought, every word He spoke, and every thing He did were all the carrying out of the Father's will; His fellowship with the Father had never been interrupted. But God the Father is righteous and holy. When Jesus became sin for all of us on the cross, the Father had to leave Him.

Jesus is the second person of the Divine Trinity. Even when He was on earth as a man, He maintained intimate fellowship with God the Father and God the Spirit. But on the cross, there had to be separation, and that kind of loneliness was truly unbearable to Him. Therefore He cried out earnestly, if it is Your will, take this cup away. But He also added, nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done. Jesus came to the earth originally to go to the cross, originally to redeem all people from sin. Facing the cup of wrath set before Him, He came before God the Father and cried out earnestly.

Verses 43-44: "Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

God the Father truly heard Jesus' prayer, knowing that at that time He really did not have strength enough to overcome it, and therefore He sent an angel to help

Him. Through the angel's strengthening, Jesus was in great sorrow, and in His sorrow, His prayer became even more earnest, to the point that His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

When a person is sorrowful to the point of extreme agony, medicine tells us that many times some of the tiny blood vessels in our skin can burst and flow out together with sweat. Jesus prayed in such sorrow until, to a certain point, the burden within Him was completely released, and only then did He return to the disciples.

Verse 45: "When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow."

Jesus was about to face that extremely great pain and drink the cup of God's wrath. He Himself came before God and prayed earnestly; yet His disciples had actually all fallen asleep because of sorrow. At this very time, Jesus still had to bear the disciples' weakness.

Verse 46: "Then He said to them, 'Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.'"

When Jesus Himself encountered an extremely great difficulty, He prayed earnestly before God the Father, until His sweat dropped to the ground like drops of rain. He knew that when we are grieved and sorrowful, we are most likely to fall into temptation and begin to doubt God and doubt God's arrangement. The best way to deal with this is to watch and pray. Connect our faith to heaven, and draw heavenly power directly from God the Father, so that we can overcome difficult circumstances and serious tests.

Although Jesus is the Son, the second person of the Divine Trinity, when He came to the earth, He was one hundred percent human: the pain that the human flesh suffers, He also suffered; the burdens that the human soul bears, He also bore in

the same way; the pain that man faces in being separated from God the Father, He also tasted in the same way. When He faced an extremely great difficulty, His way of dealing with it was to pray earnestly, to the point that God sent an angel to help Him, so that He ultimately could accomplish the will of God the Father.

In every difficulty in our life, are we also the same, putting down our own struggling and effort, and instead returning before God the Father to ask God the Father for help, so that we may accomplish God the Father's will upon us, rather than according to what we ourselves think?

Let us pray together: Lord, help me. Perhaps at this very time, in my life, I am facing some very difficult situations. Lord, help me to truly understand Your will; even more, help me by giving me the will and granting me the ability to carry out Your will. How Jesus prayed earnestly in the Garden of Gethsemane and ultimately was able to complete the will of God the Father has become the best example for us. May the Lord help me, in every difficulty I encounter today, to be able, through prayer, to draw power from heaven. Bless my living today, so that it may be according to Your heart's desire. I pray in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ.