

“If it IS Possible; If it is NOT Possible.”

Hi, this episode follows up *Me, You...Barabbas?* We looked at the fact that Barabbas was chosen and Jesus was rejected. But more important was the tremendous significance of their names. Implications we have never considered before. Without giving the message away, Barabbas means, “son of the father” and Jesus means, “the Lord who saves”. Have a listen to that and you will be amazed by what the Lord revealed to us.

1 Cor. 2:9-10 “Things that no eye has seen, or ear heard, or mind imagined, are the things God has prepared for those that love Him...these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit” (NET/NIV).

The Lord DID reveal things to us about this significance we had never seen, heard or imagined.

One of the goals of *A Pinch of Salt* is to show what Jesus did for us. We are going to be looking at Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. And we will see what Jesus did for us.

Matt. 26:36-46

One day as I was reading this passage a couple of things Jesus said struck me as strange.

Maybe not strange on their own, but strange when taken together.

Before we look at them, let’s look at what Jesus was going through.

Vs. 36 “Sit here...”

In vs. 38 Jesus says, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.”

The KJV puts it this way, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.”

The Message Bible says, “This sorrow is crushing my life out.”

Matthew Henry’s Commentary says, “It is called an agony, a conflict.

It was not any bodily pain or torment that he was in, nothing occurred to hurt him;

but, whatever it was, it was from within; he troubled himself.”

He continues, “The words here used are very emphatical.

He had a full and clear prospect of all the sufferings that were before him.

He foresaw the treachery of Judas, the unkindness of Peter, the malice of the Jews, and their base ingratitude.

He knew that he should now in a few hours be scourged, spit upon, crowned with thorns, nailed to the cross;

death in its most dreadful appearances, death in pomp, attended with all its terrors, looked him in the face;

and this made him sorrowful, especially because it was the wages of our sin, which he had undertaken to satisfy for” end of quote.

This sorrow was crushing His life out. He was overcome with sorrow so much as to cause one’s death.

Vs. 39 “He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it **IS** possible, if it IS possible, this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will,’”

Consider what Jesus was facing – **and** what He had faced the previous few weeks.

Misunderstood by His family and closest friends;

abandoned by almost everyone;

falsely accused by some;

denied by many;

sentenced to die by the Jews.

In fact, consider what He had faced for many years –

the knowledge that He was going to die for the sin Adam committed and the sins we would commit –

that He was going to die a horrible death on a cruel Roman cross.

He could not be blamed for wanting to avoid any of this.

Yet, He submitted Himself to God’s will,

to God’s calling upon His life,

and to God’s destiny for His life.

Vs. 42 “My Father, if it is **NOT** possible...may your will be done.”

The first time, in vs. 39, He prayed, “My Father, if it **IS** possible...”

The second time, here in vs. 42, He prayed, “If it is **NOT** possible...”

I found that strange when I read these two verses together. “If it **IS** possible...If it is **NOT** possible...?”

Wonder why I found it strange when I read them together?

I believe after He prayed the first time, “If it **IS** possible,” He was waiting, hoping for an answer.

He did not just pray and go on.

He prayed and He waited and He was **HOPING** for an answer.

He must have been...no, He **WAS**...in deep despair over what was going to happen to Him.

The sorrow was crushing the life out of Him.

KNOWING what is going to happen to you is bad.

Having some part of that a mystery makes it worse.

NOT KNOWING what is going to happen to you is **MANY** times worse than just knowing.

But knowing **AND** understanding what is going to happen to you,

having a **COMPLETE** realization of the events, the times, and the outcome

is the very **WORST** situation you could be in.

And Jesus **KNEW** what was going to happen to Him.

He **UNDERSTOOD** what was going to happen to Him.

He **KNEW** and He **UNDERSTOOD** almost if He had gone through it already.

That was because it was **WRITTEN** about the suffering of the Messiah.

What had been taught to Him all through His childhood schooling.

The OT scriptures clearly tell of the sufferings of the Messiah.

So He knew. And He **UNDERSTOOD**.

In Luke 22:43, it tells us an angel from Heaven appeared and strengthened Him.

How He was strengthened, we are not told.

This angelic strengthening took place **AFTER** He asked, “If it **is** possible...” but **BEFORE** He prayed, “If it is **not** possible...”

You see, He needed strengthening...because it goes on to say in vs. 44,

“And being in **ANGUISH** He prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.”

KJV – “great drops.”

The word “anguish” means, “severe mental struggles and emotions, agony, anguish”.

“And being in **ANGUISH** He prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground”

Verse 44 in The Expanded Translation says,

“And having a state of severe mental and emotional struggle to the point of agony, He was praying more earnestly.

And His perspiration became like great drops of blood continually falling down upon the ground”.

Why? It says, “by reason of the fact that His blood burst through the ruptured walls of the capillaries, the latter caused by His agony, colouring the perspiration and enlarging the drops”.

The NIV Study Bible footnotes describes this as *hematidrosis* – “the **ACTUAL** mingling of blood and sweat as in cases of extreme anguish, strain or sensitivity.”

The Greek word for “great drops” is *thrombos* - a large thick drop, especially used of clotted blood.

The Miriam-Webster Dictionary says that our medical word *thrombosis* is the formation or presence of a blood clot within a blood vessel.

Most of us have heard of the medical condition deep vein thrombosis.

Did the extreme agony of Jesus cause blood clots **THAT CAME OUT THROUGH HIS SKIN** like sweat does?

Or...was it just sweat?

Adam Clarke’s Commentary says, and I quote, “Some have thought that the meaning of the words is,

that the sweat was so profuse that every drop was as large as a drop of blood,

not that the sweat was blood itself: but this does not appear likely.

There have been cases in which persons in a debilitated state of body,

or through horror of soul, have had their sweat tinged with blood.”

He goes on, "Cases sometimes happen in which, through mental pressure, the pores may be so dilated that blood may issue from them; so that there may be a bloody sweat."

End of quote

KNOWLEDGE of an impending event is bad enough.

NOT knowing the future brings a great deal more stress and anguish.

BUT, KNOWING IN GREAT DETAIL,

and having a **COMPLETE REALIZATION** of **WHAT** is going to happen,

and **WHEN** it is going to happen, brings even a **GREATER** deal of stress and a **GREATER** amount of anguish.

Enough to cause blood clots that could not be contained in Jesus’s blood vessels?

Matt. 26:39 He prayed, “My Father, if it **IS** possible...”

Jesus would not have asked that question if He thought there was no way of avoiding what He had to go through.

Jesus would **NOT** have asked that question if He thought there was absolutely **NO WAY** of avoiding what He had to go through.

He asked...because He was a man.

He asked...because He was hoping there might just be a way out.

He asked the question. He hoped. And He waited.

What answer did He get?

Silence

What answer did He get? **SILENCE**.

God was not saying anything. God was **NOT going to help Him**.

Jesus had started on a journey of which there was no return.

On the cross Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?”

The Greek words are, “Eloi, (AY LO EE) Eloi, lama sabachthani?” (SAB AK THAN EE)

“Sabachthani” means “to abandon, to desert; to leave helpless;

to be totally abandoned and to be utterly forsaken.”

“Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” “My God, my God, why have **YOU** forsaken **ME**?”

We tend to think the forsaking of Jesus was only on the cross. Only when He was getting close to death.

Had Jesus been forsaken by God even while He was **STILL** in the Garden of Gethsemane?

“My Father, if it **IS** possible...?”

Jesus, the man **ASKED** the question. He **HOPED** for an answer. He **WAITED** for an answer.

And no answer came.

We read in vs. 43-44, “When He came back,

He again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

So He left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.”

He prayed again. For the **THIRD TIME!**

Saying the same thing as the **SECOND** time. “If it is **NOT** possible...”

Jesus knew **WHAT** must be done.

He knew **WHY** it must be done.

And He knew **WHO** must do it.

He knew **HE** had to do it.

But **He WAS HOPING** for an answer.

He was **WAITING** for an answer.

And He **GOT** the answer He expected.

But I don’t think it was in the **WAY** He expected.

Not the way He **hoped** for.

I think if Jesus had heard God the Father say,

“My Son, it is **NOT POSSIBLE** for Me to take this cup away from You,”

If He had heard that, then He would have had some measure of relief.

At least He would have **KNOWN** He had been heard.

But He waited...and waited...and hoped...and prayed.

And the only answer He got...was silence.

SILENCE!

There is no comfort in silence.

Silence is deafening.

Silence is discouraging.

Prov. 13:12 says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.”

There **WAS NO** hope. And Jesus **WAS** heart sick.

Heart sick, abandoned and forsaken.

With no hope whatsoever. With hope gone...

He reaches out with the little He had left.

“My Father, if it is **NOT** possible...”

By then He **KNEW** it was not possible.

He **KNEW** it was not going to happen.

He resigned Himself totally to that awful fate waiting for Him.

It **WAS** His choice but **HE** had to make that choice.

And that was not easy.

But He did make that choice for **you** and for me.

He resigned Himself to being abandoned by His Father;

to being forsaken by His Father;

to being left **TOTALLY** on His own.

The only small measure of comfort He had,

a very **small** measure, was that He **KNEW** what was going to happen on the other side of the cross:

Resurrection life

VICTORY

The battle with Satan **WON**

Countless millions offered eternal life with Him in Heaven

You and I offered eternal life with Him in heaven.

A small measure of comfort. Ha, of comfort?

Heb 12:2 “who **FOR THE JOY** that was set before Him endured the cross.”

“For the joy...”? “For the **JOY**...”?

There was no joy **AT** the cross.

HIS joy was knowing He was enduring all this....for **you** and for me.

A small measure of comfort **AFTER** the cross?

You know, it wasn't **JUST** a small measure of comfort.

It was what was **KEEPING HIM GOING**.

The thought that **WHAT** He was going through, He was doing for **YOU!**

So **He** could be together **WITH** you. And you could be with Him.

But...before the cross, He **STILL** had to face the betrayal by a friend and close associate.

He **STILL** had to face Peter denying Him three times.

He **STILL** had to face being beaten and mocked.

He **STILL** had to face being whipped by the Roman soldiers.

He **STILL** had to face a crown of thorns piercing His scalp.

...He **STILL** had to face that loooong road to Golgotha,

carrying a heavy wooden cross...that dug into His beaten...shredded...bloody back.

He **STILL** had to face the nails being driven through His hands and His feet.

The cross lifted up and **DROPPED** into a hole in the ground.

And finally...He **STILL** had to face the realization of **TOTAL** abandonment:

that He was **ABSOLUTELY AND TOTALLY ALONE**.

God did not look on...knowing Jesus had to go through this...

Knowing He could not help...His...Son...Jesus.

GOD DID NOT EVEN LOOK ON.

God had already turned away...absolutely and completely.

He had already turned away and left Jesus **ALONE**.

To such a complete degree that when Jesus called out,

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” He **KNEW** He was totally alone.

And He **EXPERIENCED** being totally alone

with all the horrors of the cross.

...And He had been since the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus **KNEW** the presence and the fellowship of God.

He was so aware of God’s presence. As a man!

As a **MAN**, He knew it,

He experienced it,

and He had enjoyed it.

But now, as a **MAN**, God had abandoned Him and God had forsaken Him.

Totally. Completely.

But why?

Was it because Jesus carried our sins to the cross?

No. No, it was more than that.

2 Cor. 5:21 says that Jesus was **MADE** sin;

that He **BECAME** sin; He became **ONE** with sin.

On the cross, Jesus **WAS** sin.

It wasn't Jesus on the cross with our sins **ON** Him,

and our sins all **OVER** Him.

It was Jesus on the cross having **BECOME** sin.

Jesus **AND** sin were one and the same.

How? How? I don't know.

I don't know how but 2 Cor. 5:21 tells us He was **MADE** sin.

And God cannot abide the presence of sin.

1 Jn. 3:5 says, "In Him, there is **NO** sin."

In Him there is no sin.

But Jesus was made sin.

And so God abandoned Him.

Inasmuch as God is omnipresent, meaning He is absolutely everywhere,

He somehow created a place and brief space of time when His presence was not somewhere.

Psalm 139:7 says, "Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?"

In vs. 8-16 it describes how there is nowhere where God is not.

But Jesus found that place. Jesus was **IN** that place.

That place totally devoid, totally absent, totally empty of God.

He found it. He was in it.

And it brought Him absolute mental torment and anguish.

In the garden Jesus had prayed, “My Father, if it **IS** possible...”

But it was **NOT**.

But He hoped. He **HAD** hoped.

And then He prayed, “My Father, if it is **NOT** possible...”

And then He prayed it **AGAIN**, “My Father, if it is **NOT** possible...”

He **KNEW** then there was no hope.

He **ACCEPTED** then there was no hope.

He willingly accepted God’s will.

He willingly accepted what was to come upon Him.

In **FULL** knowledge and in **FULL** understanding of what was to come upon Him...

He willingly accepted it.

He accepted it because of His love for **YOU** and for me.

He looked down through time to each one of us listening right now

and He loved you **SO** much that He **WILLINGLY** accepted what was to come.

HE died for your sins so **YOU** would not have to die for your sins.

HE was separated from God so **YOU** would not have to be separated from God.

IF it was possible that He did not **HAVE** to suffer and die for you, He wouldn’t have.

IF it was possible that He did not have to suffer and die for you, He **WOULDN’T** have.

But, since it was **NOT** possible, He would **WILLINGLY** suffer and die for you.

And He **DID** willingly suffer for you and He did willingly **DIE** for you.

And all He asks you, **ALL** He asks you is this:

“If it **IS** possible, accept what I have done for you and become a part of My Forever Family, a part of My Body, a part of My Church.”

That’s all He asks. “If it **IS POSSIBLE**, accept what I have done for you and become a part of My Forever Family, a part of My Body, a part of My Church.”

But...But He also says, “If it is **NOT POSSIBLE**, if it is **NOT** possible, for you to accept what I have done for you, then you, **TOO**, will experience the same abandonment and the same absolute forsaking of God that I did.”

And if you don’t accept Him, it **WILL BE TOO LATE** to cry out, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”

Jesus **CHOOSES** you.

But, if **YOU** do not choose **HIM**, you **WILL** experience your own Garden of Gethsemane, your own Golgotha, your own Calvary.

And, you too **WILL CRY OUT**, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”

But there will be silence.

There will **ONLY** be silence.

I’d like to ask you to do something: just close your eyes for a few moments and think about what you’ve just heard.

Think about the choices Jesus **HAD** to make for you.

The choices Jesus **DID** make for **YOU**.

And think about the choice **YOU** have to make.

Rom. 5:12 says the sin of Adam was counted against you.

Jesus died for that sin so you would not have to.

Jesus also died for **ALL** your sins. So you would not have to.

If you have **NEVER** accepted what Jesus did for you –
dying for the sin of Adam that was counted against you,
and dying for the sins you have committed – this message is for you.

If you have **NEVER** accepted what Jesus did for you –
dying for the sin of Adam that was counted against you,
and dying for the sins you have committed – this message is for you.

If you would like to say, “Yes, Jesus, I believe In **You**.

Jesu I believe in what You **did** for me.

Jesus would like to accept You and accept what You did for me,”

Just tell Him now.

If you **have** accepted what Jesus **DID FOR YOU**

but you don't feel you have full assurance

you are going to be with Him when you die,

if you're not 100% certain you will go to heaven when you die,

Just tell Him now.

For those of you who do believe in Jesus

and you have accepted Jesus did die for all your sins,

He did die for the sin of Adam that was counted against you,
and you have no doubt you will spend eternity with Him,

Just tell Him now. And thank Him.

Thank Him for **WHAT** He's done for you and praise Him for **WHO** He is.

If you're not sure you're going to be with Him in heaven send me a message through our website
www.truthministries.ca

I will get back to you

Don't let this crucial opportunity pass you by.

Paul Johnson
05 June 2015
pauljohnson6086@gmail.com