

Jesus Prays in the Garden



“Going a little farther, He fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26:39

After the Passover meal, Jesus went to a garden called Gethsemane to pray. He knew that some people were coming to arrest Him, and He felt scared and worried about what was going to happen. In His prayer, Jesus asked God if there was another way to do things, but He also trusted God's plan and was willing to do what needed to be done to save the world.

What is the cup that Jesus asks to be taken away?

The cup that Jesus mentioned in His prayer metaphorically contained God's wrathful judgment against sin, which would be ours to drink if God Himself did not intervene to save us. In His divinity, Jesus knew what awaited Him at the cross and asked His Father for another way to redeem Creation. In His humanity, like any other person, Jesus naturally would not wish to suffer and die.

When asking God to take the cup away, it may have been because He wanted to avoid suffering, the excruciating death on the cross, or experiencing the full weight of sin. However, despite His natural aversion to suffering and death, as our Savior, Jesus willingly exchanged His blessings for our curses, turning our cup of wrath into a cup of salvation.

Prayer

Dear God,

As we think about Jesus's prayer in the garden, we thank you for His love for us. Jesus asked if there was another way, but ultimately surrendered to Your plan so that we can be saved. Help us learn from Jesus's trust and obedience and help us to also submit to your plan even when it's hard.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.