

BIG IDEA: Jesus came to do the Father’s will even though it was painful.

1) INTRO

- Anticipation – saturday cartoons (good/eager anticipation) vs oral surgery (bad)
 - We avoid difficulty, suffering, & pain at all costs
 - We naturally do that...in our humanity we do that
 - We don’t anticipate difficulties w/ joy
- Today, JC begins to walk through some extreme difficulties
 - Purposeful journey of extreme pain
 - This is the reason/purpose he came to earth
 - Many difficulties JC walks through on this Thursday night – friend betrays him, close friend denies him, arrested, tried & sentenced unfairly, knows he’s about to absorb the wrath of God
 - Even as anticipates these ahead, he submit’s to the plan that was set in place before the foundation of the world

2) SUPPER (vv17-35)

- JC says that one will betray him
 - JC sits down w/ his disciples for the Passover meal
 - Passover was one meal on one night in the Jewish week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread
 - This was a time when Israelites remembered their exodus from Egypt
 - Thousands of people came Jerusalem during this time
 - During their meal JC doesn’t just talk about frivolous things
 - One who’s there will betray him
 - Part of God’s plan, but also responsible
 - And that one will face great punishment
 - Negates universalism & annihilationism
 - Judas looks JC in eye and asks if it’s him (remember the 30 pieces of silver from last week)
- JC establishes the Lord’s Supper

- There’s already rich symbolism to the Passover meal
- But, JC adds even greater richness by “body” & “blood” words
 - Bread represents broken body, soon to be crucified
 - Cup represents his shed blood
- In OT, people could only come to God through the priest’s work of sacrificing an animal on their behalf
 - Animal sacrificed/blood shed to atone for/cover sins
- But, JC has now shed his blood for us
 - Now, b/c of JC we can come directly to God when we our faith in completed work of JC
 - B/c JC shed his blood as the ultimate perfect sacrifice, we don’t have to sacrifice anymore
 - v29 assures us of his victory over death and of our future w/ him
 - When we trust in JC work on cross for our sin
 - Now have communion/close contact w/ God
 - Forever...even though the next few hrs will look like defeat
 - True for us too; life can seem full of defeat sometimes – but, faith in Christ means forever perfection & joy in God’s forever kingdom
- JC says Peter will deny him
 - After singing a hymn – probably from Psalm 115-118, traditional Passover meal songs – JC says that they’ll all abandon him tonight...and they do later in our text
 - Peter insists he won’t...even if everyone else does
 - JC says he’ll actually deny him three times before rooster...which happens later on
 - Peter again insists he won’t...even saying that he’ll die w/ JC
 - And all the disciples said the same
 - Location moves then to the garden of Gethsemane

3) GARDEN (vv36-56)

- Agony & submission to the Father’s will
 - JC takes disciples to Gethsemane
 - Passage clearly shows JC’s humanity

- He predicts & knows what's gonna happen, but still wants to avoid such agony
- He's sorrowful, even pleading w/ God
- He prays that God would let this cup pass from him
 - Cup language is an OT ref of God's wrath
 - God's punishment of sin
 - While all the difficulties JC will face are painful...this is the most painful
 - The full, complete terrifying punishment of sin by holy God is something we won't have to encounter when we submit & surrender to JC
 - B/c JC went to die in our place
 - Sinless JC took our sin on self to save
- Knowing this lies ahead, JC asks that God let this pass
 - But, he submits to the will of Father God
 - Does 2 more times in these vv
- Weak & tired disciples
 - Disciples seem so weak, don't they?
 - They're so tired they can't even stay awake
 - JC closest followers want to obey him, but their bodies and/or sinful natures won't cooperate
 - We're weak (like that too), but praise JC he's not!
- JC is betrayed & arrested
 - It's here's that Judas betrays JC...just as JC said
 - w/ a kiss (on both cheeks)...common sign of friendship
 - JC understands exactly what's going to happen, able to resist, but submits to God's plan
 - Peter ear high priest's servant, more than 12 legions of angels – 72,000 – to annihilate these guys
 - But, he came to do the Father's will...perfect commitment to Father's will
 - Looks like defeat – but death brings victory here
 - At sign of defeat, disciples scatter – like JC said they would
 - JC then goes to trial

4) TRIAL & DENIAL (vv57-75)

- It's an illegal hearing

- 12-3am...not supposed to reach a verdict at night
- Not supposed to meet during Festival
- Not to meet in high priest's home
- Not to condemn someone without a witness for accused
- v59 – knew JC was innocent, but tried to find false testimony
 - Ultimately they did
 - v61 – two came forward distorting JC's words
 - JC never said *he'd* destroy temple, talking about death
- In midst of it all, JC remains silent b/c his mission is to die
 - v64 answers by saying that's he's the Son of Man spoken of in Daniel
 - That he'll ascend to heaven and return as Lord
 - Caiaphas reacts well – tears clothes, blasphemy, sentences JC to death
 - We too must decide whether JC's words are blasphemy or truth...our decision has eternal significance
- Peter denies JC – like JC said would happen
 - He does so 3 times – first to 2 servant girls, then bystanders
 - There's a progression to Peter's denial – changes the subject, w/ oath says he doesn't know JC, to swearing doesn't know JC
 - Peter not using false language
 - “May God strike me dead if I'm lying”
 - How do we respond to times to talk about JC?
 - Peter balked at idea of possible pain, JC didn't
 - Trusted his strength rather than watch & pray...and he wept
 - Mercy of JC triumphs after Peter's fall...and ours too
 - Its why JC came!

5) CONCL

- JC's perfect commitment to Father's will to glorify God by saving us
- Heb 12:2 – for the joy set before him, JC endured the cross
- JC was faithful to plan, may we give our all by faithfully living for God
- Be willing to suffer/difficulty/pain/humiliation for JC
 - Praise JC that he was willing to!