

## **MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? (Jesus' obedience until his death on cross)**

Mark 14:1 – 16:20

Key verse 15:34

"And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

*Dear Father, thank you for the 2021 GLEF. Thank you for all the FBS, lectures, IBS workshops and messages. Thank you that we, despite the pandemic, can come together to learn about Jesus' spiritual authority. Mobilize the NG to grow to the spiritual leaders of this generation. Thank you for the servanthood of M. Dr. Peter Chang and M. John Park. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we may personally hear Jesus' call on the cross with open hearts, open ears and open eyes. In Jesus' name, AMEN.*

We thank God for the blessed GLEF 2021 that God abundantly. It is His grace to come together and study God's Word despite the Covid-19 Pandemic. Sh. Peter Ryu, Samuel Chang and M. Petrus Chang have given us encouraging lectures and workshops to grow into Bible teachers well versed in the Bible like Ezra through deep observation, interpretation, and application. We have heard heart-moving FBS on the NT books like the Acts FBS or the Romans FBS. Thanks be to God for the many models of faith like George Mueller or Jim Elliot who gave their whole life for God and for His redemption work. God has worked mightily through them and has encouraged us as well to grow into such men and women of faith. In particular, we have learned through Mark's Gospel where Jesus' spiritual authority came from: it came from his hope and vision, from his shepherd's heart, from his servanthood as a ransom for many, and from his mountain-moving, prayerful, forgiving faith. Every day we studied God's Word deeply in SEBT-BS groups. Each day we have learned about a new aspect of Jesus' authority. Today's passage is about Jesus' suffering, his death on the cross and his resurrection. Let us learn about the significance of Jesus' prayer struggle for God's counsel in Gethsemane and about His suffering and death on the cross for the fulfillment of God's redemptive work, that we may follow in His footsteps of obedience of faith and be used as global spiritual leaders.

### **1. Jesus' Passion (14:1-15:20a)**

There were two days left until the Passover. Now the Jewish rulers made a plan to kill Jesus so that they could celebrate the Passover "undisturbed." Meanwhile, in the house of Simon the leper, a heart-stirring incident took place.

Let us look at verse 3: „While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head." This woman had personally experienced Jesus' forgiving grace and his mighty healing power, and was very grateful for it. Out of her gratitude, she decided to give her best to Jesus by pouring the most precious, unadulterated nard oil on Jesus. She poured out her whole heart on Jesus. What was the reaction of the bystanders? "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor. And they rebuked her harshly." While everyone else disapproved her act, Jesus fully understood the woman's devotion and made her a historical incident. Let us look at verses 6-8: "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial."

Like this woman, numerous servants of God have testified their gratitude to Jesus and His grace by pouring out their most precious nard oil - their whole lives - for Jesus and His work of salvation. Instead of receiving praise, they received many misunderstandings because their devotion seemed to be too radical. Our missionaries from Korea are good role models for us. Out of their gratitude for the grace of Jesus, they poured out their most precious by making a life decision for world mission and selflessly giving their lives with joy for Jesus and His work until today. Out of gratitude for the calling grace of Jesus, M. Sarah Chang has also poured out and given her most precious nard oil, her whole life, for Jesus during the past 49 years in Germany. For the salvation work of Jesus, she has opened her home and her family to the sheep for 41 years. She served the sheep in various ways and even lived with M. Dr. Peter Chang in a small, cold room in the basement. Jesus works mightily through her devotion, changing campus students and the Next Generation into outstanding preachers, shepherds, and spiritual leaders.

Although Judas had experienced Jesus' love and trust for more than 3 years, he eventually sold Jesus for only 30 pieces of silver. But Jesus showed him His love that goes until the end. Let's look at verses 22-24: „While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them." At the Last Supper, Jesus taught his disciples the deep meaning of his sufferings and crucifixion. As he taught his disciples how to hold the last Supper, Jesus, as God's Lamb, would give his whole body and all his blood for the salvation of us sinners. In this way, Jesus showed his love to his betrayer Judas Iscariot. After the meal, Jesus and his disciples went out to the Mount of Olives. There he predicted something shocking and distressing, that they would all flee from Jesus; even Peter would deny Jesus three times.

At the foot of the Mount of Olives was the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus took his top disciples Peter, James and John to keep watch and pray with him. First, he confessed to them, " 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,' he said to them. 'Stay here and keep watch.'" Although Jesus was God, Jesus was overwhelmed with grief and fear, especially of his upcoming suffering and death. He then went a little further and then went into prayer himself. First, Jesus came to God with his own desire. "Abba, Father, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me." Jesus wished not to experience the upcoming sufferings, because it was like a "red line" that he had to cross. Jesus wrestled so hard that his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground (Lk 22:44). But at the same time, Jesus was willing to absolutely obey God's will more than his own. That is why he prayed, "...take this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what you will!" Jesus knew that his task, planned by God in his sovereign counsel, was, to fulfill God's work of salvation through his suffering and death on the cross. Therefore, he made a clear decision of faith for the counsel of God. He overcame his own desire and completely subordinated it to God's sovereign will and deliberate plan of salvation. Jesus' prayer struggle strengthened and encouraged him in his decision of life to obey the God's salvation plan to the end, no matter what the cost.

At this point we learn about Jesus' loving shepherd heart. Ordinary people would never give themselves like Jesus did for God's counsel to die for the salvation of others. But Jesus loved us unlovable sinners. So much did he trust in God his Father that he desperately wanted us to be saved - so much did he want to make a life decision in Gethsemane, for our sake, for God's will and his world redemption plan of God, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life in him (John 3:16).

Let us read verse 36: "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." While Jesus fought the hard battle of prayer and was thereby strengthened to obey God's will, the disciples remained passive and fell asleep. Thus, when Jesus was captured, they all had to flee. Without the spiritual preparation in prayer and the intense prayer struggle, we cannot obey the will, plan and God's purpose for us to the end. If even Jesus, who is God, had to fight such a hard and intense prayer battle, how much more should we fight in prayer to obey God's will! "Yet not what I will, but what you will." Jesus' decision through struggling in prayer became the basis for Jesus' obedience towards God's sovereign plan until his death on cross. Let us love prayer and especially the early morning prayer so that we deeply experience the help and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Prayer is our strongest weapon to fulfill God's sovereign plan to us, to gain His wisdom, and to overcome Satan's temptations and our ego.

Jesus' prayer struggle in Gethsemane was the struggle of faith for the fulfillment of God's sovereign plan for him. My prayer struggle in Gethsemane was almost always self-denial, overcoming my own plans and accepting God's reign. Jesus let me experience His undeserved forgiving grace, who changed me from a hopeless case to God's child through 1 John 1:8, 9 and Heb. 5:8, 9. But my ego was still very strong in me, so that instead of submitting to God's counsel, I often just followed God's guidance with a dark face and did not want to joyfully serve God's work, e.g. for GLEF or various practical tasks. However, from Jesus I learn His prayer struggle in Gethsemane that strengthened Him to obey God's sovereign plan for him no matter what the cost. Jesus' prayer struggle was one dimension higher regarding the spiritual level. Through Bible study, early morning prayer, and with the fact that by the wonderful grace of Jesus, my old life died with my ego through Jesus' death on the cross, I had an intense prayer struggle in my personal Gethsemane, to give my life for the fulfillment of God's will. Praise be to the Lord who helped me to make a clear decision of faith for the fulfillment God's purpose, plan, and his work Heb 5:8,9. Through the math course, through gardening and through shepherding sheep, I may now work well together with joy and with all my strength and zeal for the work of God.

Now Judas the betrayer came with an armed soldiers to capture Jesus. Immediately, all the disciples deserted him and fled. Jesus was taken before the high council to be interrogated and accused. All the adversaries testified against him, each trying to find a point of guilt so that they could kill Jesus. The high priest asked, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" The high priest asked again, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" To this Jesus replied, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." Jesus identified himself as the Christ and as the true judge. But to the Jews in the high council, Jesus was only a blasphemer. They condemned him to death, began to spit on him, beat him and mocked him. Why did Jesus not defend himself? Why did Jesus keep silent? Why did he endure all those sufferings? It testifies to his determination for the fulfillment of God's counsel, to submit himself to the fulfillment of God's will. Jesus did not try to defend himself with words in order to somehow prevent his condemnation, because he had already made a clear decision to absolutely obey God's will and was determined to fulfill the God's redemption plan for the whole world until death on the cross.

Meanwhile, we see how Peter, asked by a simple maid, panicked, and denied Jesus to save his life. Pilate recognized Jesus' innocence, but instead of clearly standing on the side of truth, he only tried to save Jesus through political tricks and compromise. But that did not work. Because he wanted to please people instead of being on the side of truth, he finally handed Jesus over to be crucified. Jesus was despised, mocked, ridiculed, beaten and humiliated. But not for his sake - for me and for you, for the sake of our salvation, Jesus bore all these sufferings!

## **2. Jesus' death and resurrection (15:20b-16:20)**

Now Jesus was led out to be crucified. We see that Simon of Cyrene involuntarily participated in Jesus' suffering in order to help Jesus. At Golgotha, the soldiers gave Jesus myrrh in wine to ease the pain. But Jesus would not drink it, for he was determined to bear all pain the salvation of sinners. The soldiers drove long iron nails through Jesus' hands and feet. Then they raised the cross. Each shock caused Jesus indescribable pain. He was crucified between two felons as if he were the worst of them. The by-standing people mocked him: "Help yourself now! [...] He has helped others and cannot help himself." Thus, Satan tempted Jesus to come down from the cross. In this way, Jesus paid the ransom for the redemption of mankind by shedding His holy blood on the cross and giving His body completely unto death.

Let us now read verses 33-34: "At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" What does Jesus' cry on the cross "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" mean for us?

First, Jesus was forsaken by God. When Jesus suffered and died on the cross, the whole creation wept with him, and even the sun lost its glow. For three hours there was darkness over the whole land. But in addition to the unbearable physical pain and all the temptations of the devil, it must have been the worst for Jesus to be separated and abandoned by His Father. Jesus and God are one. Jesus is God, and God is Jesus, that is, the two are inseparable. It is impossible to separate them. However, God is holy. The holy cannot be together with the sinful. Now, when all the sins of the world were on Jesus, God could no longer be with Jesus. He had to leave and abandon him. For the salvation of man from the power of sin, the originally inseparable was separated. For the salvation of man from the power of sin, what was actually holy became unholy. It was as if Jesus was cursed and expelled by God for bearing our sin. At that moment, Jesus was the lowest and most despised person in the world. Jesus died, in the greatest pain and utter loneliness for my salvation and for yours, to free me and you from the power of sins.

Second, Jesus willingly suffered until his shameful and disgraceful death on cross. How could Jesus obey God's will and sovereign plan even to the shameful death on cross? Why could he, even as he was abandoned, to the end, willingly, endure all suffering and agony and die in such loneliness? He could do so because he loved us, the sinners. Jesus' love is absolute. But more than that, he loved his father and wanted to obey him. Out of his love for us and out of his obedience to his Father in heaven, he could willingly bear all the sufferings on the cross for us. Jesus willingly suffered and endured all indescribable pain and anguish. He even suffered abandoned by God, on the cross, because he had hope, through the power of his blood, to change us from children of Satan to children of God and to raise us up as his witnesses. Because he had a compassionate shepherd heart for us and absolute trust in God. Because he desperately wanted to give us lost sinners new, eternal life through His death on the cross for our sin and lead us back to the safe home under God's protection.

That is why Jesus died alone and forsaken on the Cross, so that You and I, who had to be separated and condemned by God for eternity, could receive forgiveness grace for our sin and have a personal love relationship with God. Jesus was forsaken by God so that You and I can have a true, eternal life in God! Jesus was forsaken by God so that You and I may even have access into His eternal Kingdom and be exalted to be God's heirs and co-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17). Jesus was forsaken by God that we might no longer be forsaken but restored to be God's children and God's people as a kingdom of priests.

Verse 37 says, "With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last." In that hour, what Isaiah had promised was fulfilled, "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isa 53:4-5). Because the punishment of our sin was on Jesus, because Jesus was forsaken by God in our place, because Jesus willingly suffered to the point of death on the cross despite my sinfulness, we have been set free. With our own strength, we cannot free ourselves from our ego and from our sin. But Jesus, through his death on the cross, set us free 2000 years ago: free from the power of sin. Free from the power of death. Free from our ego. Free from the wrath of God. Free to serve God with our new life. Through Jesus' obedience to death on the cross, God's plan of salvation for mankind was fulfilled. Now the new, living way into the Kingdom of God is open! The book of Hebrews comments on that by saying: "[...] by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, [...]" (Heb 10:20) Everyone who believes in Jesus and in His redemptive work on the cross will not be judged but has already crossed over from death to life (John 5:24).

Through the disobedience of a man Adam, sin entered the world. But through the obedience of a man Jesus to the point of death on the cross, even to the point of being forsaken by God, we may live reconciled with God and receive new, eternal life. Hebrews 5:8.9 testifies, "Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him" Just as Jesus' obedience worked in a Roman centurion, in Nicodemus, and in Joseph of Arimathea, Jesus' obedience to death on the cross continues to work today as well and do something great in every person who believes in Jesus' redemptive work. Jesus' obedience worked in Sh. Peter, Sh. Jochen Schweitzer and in all our shepherds, raising them from ordinary students to influential shepherds, Bible teachers, preachers and leaders. Last year, Jesus' obedience worked in Peter Joseph and Sarah Grace to allow them to repent of

their desire for books, Youtube, and ego and to make a decision with 1 Peter 4:13 to cowork well in the work of God by participating in the sufferings of Jesus Christ. Jesus' obedience to the sovereign will and plan of God will also work mightily in Noah Schweitzer, in David Schweitzer and Peter Kösters, raising them up as influential spiritual leaders for this generation. Under the cross of Jesus, all people have hope of salvation.

Chapter 16 tells us of Jesus' glorious victory over the power of death. The women worried a lot about who would roll away the large, heavy stone of the tomb. But the tomb was already open, and the angel said to them: "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." But when Mary and the two Emmaus disciples who met Jesus witnessed to the eleven disciples the living Jesus, who conquered the power of death and rose from the dead, they did not believe it. They were resigned and fearful. They were so afraid that they locked themselves in a small room (John 20:19).

Jesus visited them and helped them, rebuking them, and gave them his Great Commission. Let us read verses 15 and 16: "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." How could Jesus give such a commission to his fearful disciples? Jesus believed in God. He believed in the power of the Holy Spirit. He believed in God who would give his disciples, who were now still fearful and weak, the spiritual authority to go out and preach the gospel to all the world. In fact, the Spirit of God worked mightily in them that the gospel was spread through them to all the world. The new life is not a continuation of the old life. No, the new life is a life with the mission that comes from Jesus' calling grace that each of us has received through his forgiving grace.

My grandfather obeyed God's counsel for the world mission unconditionally regardless of the circumstances and absolutely held on to God's will and purpose for him based on Neh 2:17 and Ezek 37:10, even in the time of persecution. He could just retire in his old age. But he keeps fighting for spiritual revival by initiating GLEF in 2018. God worked mightily through His obedience, that numerous Next Generation coworkers repented about their old lives and made a clear decision to obey God's purpose and sovereign plan and will for their lives. God's power is working here and now through the Bible Study about Mark's Gospel that the Next Generation is putting on Jesus' spiritual power and growing step by step into the global spiritual leaders of this generation. In 2020, five students were baptized: Samuel Chang, Joshua Elsholz, Sarah Schweitzer, Peter Joseph and Sarah Grace. They were all dead bones because of their rebellion, distractions and jokes through novels, Youtube or their lustful desires. But when they repented of their sins and recognized and received Jesus' love, Jesus' spiritual authority became visible through them, that they have been changed into new creatures. In 2021, we see God's authority working mightily in their new lives. May God use them and our sheep like Olaf and Dasom and reveal His glory through them.

I was a sinner of lustful desires, stealing and with unhealable tic problems as a result of these sins. Jesus cried out for my sake, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Through his servant, God gave me his word from Heb 5:8.9. Jesus' spiritual authority worked so that I was able to renew my mindset and my personal values towards God so that I could grow into a man of obedience like Jesus. God worked in me and allowed me to receive the privilege to be baptized by faith and finish school very well. Now, my ego no longer lives, but Christ lives in me, as Gal 2:20 says, " I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Thanks be to God who has given me His calling grace and a new spiritual identity in my new life. It is God's counsel for me to be used as a blessing to this generation like Abraham and as a spiritual leader, shepherd and Bible teacher like the prophet and leader Samuel in the Bible, according to my life guidelines Genesis 12:2 and 1 Samuel 3:19.

Thanks be to God for this calling grace, for which I may willingly and gratefully pour out my most precious nard oil before God. With 1 Pet 4:13, I want to participate in the sufferings of Jesus Christ and joyfully cowork

for the GLEF, Online Mission to Campus and World Mission. Furthermore, I may my friends Dan, Philip, Frederick, and Sebastian so that they realize and receive what God has done for us through Jesus.

Today we have learned about Jesus' obedience to God's purpose and sovereign redemption plan until to the point of death on the cross: "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Thanks be to Jesus who leads us to his prayer struggle in Gethsemane. Praise be to Jesus who suffered so much and laid down his life in our place for our salvation! Let us give thanks to him who solved our sin and death problem at once and thus became the author of our eternal salvation through his obedience! Let us learn his obedience that we may put on Jesus' spiritual authority and fulfill his Great Commission to the ends of the earth.

Let us read the key verse together, "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Dear heavenly father, thank you for your word from Mark 15:34. Thank you for making a clear decision for us to fulfill your plan of redemption for us sinners. Thank you for your absolute obedience to the point of death on the cross, through which you have given us eternal salvation. Let us put on your obedience and experience your mighty work this year. Bless the GLEF to the end. AMEN.