

**The Surrendered Life**  
**Matthew 26:36-46**

**Main Point:** Jesus lived a surrendered life and so He could pray a surrendered prayer.  
Jesus could not have surrendered His will in this moment if He had not surrendered His will as a lifestyle.

*It is a surrendered life which enables you to pray a surrendered prayer.*

John 4:34 – My food is to do *the will of Him who sent me*.

John 5:30 – I seek not my will but *the will of Him who sent me*.

John 6:38 – I have come down from heaven not to do my will but *the will of Him who sent me*.

Jesus was deeply committed to the will of God the Father. Knowing that the cup of wrath was going to be horrible beyond anything He had ever experienced, He asked for another way. Jesus DID ask in submission to the Father's will. What Jesus wanted even MOST ...was to do the will of God.

*This prayer is not a prayer of surrender but the prayer of a surrendered person.*

Jesus can pray the prayer of surrender because He has been living a life of surrender.

Here are a few phrases from Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel that refer to the “cup” that Jesus was to drink.

Cup of God's fury  
Cup of staggering  
Cup of reeling  
Cup of God's anger  
Cup of horror  
Cup of desolation

The physical suffering was as brutal as the Romans could make it, but the spiritual suffering was much, much worse. The spiritual suffering was the wrath of God poured out in response to the weight of every sin ever committed amongst humanity all upon Jesus while He was on the cross.

Jesus knew what was coming. The natural response of holiness is separation from sin. Holiness wants distance from sin. When Jesus received God's wrath in your place, His communion with God the Father was cut off. For 3 hours on the cross, Jesus was separated from God the Father.

This helps us to understand the magnitude of what occurred:

***Jesus was not a martyr. He was a substitute.***

Jesus took the cup that belonged to you and me.

This is where the personal suffering and the spiritual suffering become enmeshed together.

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.*

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

## Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. What are you reading in Scripture this week as we enter into Holy Week?

If you don't have a Bible reading plan, perhaps you can choose one of these plans for the week:

John 12:12 – John 21:25

Luke 19:28 – Luke 24:53

Mark 11:1 – Mark 16:20

Matthew 20:1 – Matthew 28:20

2. What part of this story of Jesus' life did you connect with the most?

3. What was it like to hear the descriptions surrounding the cup in the Sunday message?

First description – the cup that Jesus drank.

Second description – the cup that contained one or more of your sins.

Third description – the comparisons...Jesus drank the cup of death so you could have the cup of life.

How does this raise your level of appreciation for the Savior?

4. If the sin that produces – for instance – worry and fear was in the cup that Jesus drank, why do you think Christians still indulge in worry and fear.

5. Do you feel as if you live a surrendered life? If not, what can you do to move toward that?

Personal Reflection: Spend some time this week as you prepare for Easter weekend considering what you need to surrender to God.