

GETHSEMANE GRIEF (part #1)

The story of Gethsemane is recorded in the synoptic gospels (Matt.26; Mark 14; and Luke 22).

When you read the Gethsemane story, you discover two different forms of grief suffered by Spiritually Mature Believers.

These two types of grief are contrasted with Jesus' grief in the account of His three disciples who were hand-picked for a special time of prayer with Him (Matt.26:36-37).

- **Jesus' grief** is described by the following four Greek words:
 - lupeo (grieved or sorrow)
 - periluipo (deeply grieved)
 - ademoneo (distressed or full of heaviness)
 - agonia (agony, or severe emotional anguish).
- **The grief of Peter, James and John** is described by the following three Greek words:
 - Lupeo (grieved or sorrow)
 - ademoneo (distressed or full of heaviness)
 - katabareo (weighed down, overloaded, and burdened).

Many believers are not shocked to learn that Jesus' disciples suffered grief or great sorrow of soul. But they are shocked to learn that Jesus suffered deep grief within His soul.

Today's lesson will study five aspects about the differences of the suffering of the grief associated with the Gethsemane experience following the Last Supper.

- 1. Jesus and these three disciples accompanying Him to Gethsemane were suffering extreme grief and severe emotional anguish of their souls, all four regarding the same category of bible doctrine of the will of God.**

Jesus associated His grief with His CUP that He must drink referring to His crucifixion for the sins of the world (Luke 22:20, 42; 1 Cor.11:25) (John 1:29; 1 Pet.1:19; 1 John 2:2; 1 Tim.1:15).

These three disciple's grief was associated with His constant teaching on the very subject that had brought Him to point of despair - a burden too big to carry. (Matt.16:21-23; 17:22; 20:17-19; 26:2).

It took the shocking reality of the Resurrection (Easter) to bring them out of their despair to the joy of believing this bible doctrine (Luke 24:6-8; John 2:22).

- 2. Two special Greek words are used to describe the grief in the soul of Jesus in Gethsemane, as He faces the wrath of God in the crucifixion for the sins of the entire world (1 John 2:2; Rom.5:9; 1 Thess.1:10).**

- **Periluipo** refers to feeling trapped and closed in on all sides without a way out (Matt.26:38).
- **Agonia** refers to severe, unbearable emotional anguish of the soul (Luke 22:40).

3. Luke tells us that these disciples slept through this special prayer meeting.

He describes their sleep as an defensive mechanism (escape or evasion) because of the emotional pain of subjective thinking that started at the Last Supper (Cup Ceremony) and continued into this moment at Gethsemane (Luke 22:20, 42) (they did it three times).

A special Greek word is used to describe the grief that these disciples were suffering – (katabareo) which means to be weighed down, overloaded, a burden too heavy to carry) (Mark 14:40; Matt.26:43; Luke 22:45).

This form of depression is the feeling that you cannot do anything to prevent or change the situation, but you can do something to avoid the pain of it! (Withdrawal, pills, alcohol)

Sleeping is one of those escape defensive mechanisms. It is termed a psychosomatic reaction to stress-depression – katabareo. It is chaos of the soul or a soul out of its natural order.

4. Grief robs your soul of joy!

(2 Cor.2:3-4) “And this is the very thing I wrote to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow (lupe) from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy (chara) would be the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not that you should be made sorrowful. But that you might know the love which I have especially for you.”

(Heb.12:11) “All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

(Eph.4:30) “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

(2 Cor.7:6-10) “But God, Who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus.”

5. When Jesus went into deep sorrow, He lost His joy of the Will of God and yet it was not sin.

- What did Jesus want? (Matt.26:39)
- Why did He want it? (Acts 2:27)
- When did Jesus feel trapped and slipped into distress of soul? (Gethsemane reality)

Jesus reversed His concentration and refocused on the Word and Will of God (CBD) (2 Cor.5:7; 1 Pet.1:6-8).

- What did He accept? (Luke 22:42)
- When did **joy** return to His soul? (**Heb.12:2**)

(James 1:2) “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.”

Jesus teaches us how to transform grief (suffering) into joy by doing the Will of God.

(Eph.6:6b-7)

“Doing the Will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men.”