***Luke 22:41-42 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed,****42****saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”***

The past two Sundays, we’ve talked about agreeing with God. Last week, we witnessed the trust of Abram as he departed the country he’d lived in for seventy five years, left his family, friends, and community behind, and departed. He didn’t know where he was going, but he knew Who he was going with. We know, from Amos 3:3 that two cannot walk together unless they are agreed. Each day, we make a choice to be in agreement with God, acting in accordance with His will for the glory of God’s Kingdom.

We’re with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. Satan has already entered Judas, the Last Supper has been observed, the mob is gathering, the chief priests and scribes are plotting. It’s night and He’s come to the garden to pray. He knows His time has arrived. The divine plan for the Salvation of all mankind is drawing to a climax. Soon, He’ll be crucified. The Bible tells us that He’s in agony, His soul exceedingly sorrowful. A short distance away, James, John, and Peter, are sleeping, rather than praying. Let’s stand here by the disciples and look on.

Verse 41 says - *And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed.* Jesus withdraws a stones throw, so He’s close. He first kneels and then Matthew 26 tells us He put His face to the ground praying, seeking His Father. This is a posture of complete submission. He’s sweating great drops of blood, which fall to the ground. Jesus, fully man, fully God, tempted in all the ways that we are, yet remained sinless, is preparing to drink the bitter cup of wrath made up of all sin. T**he only person Who has no sin in that cup is Jesus.**

Verse 42 starts - *saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me;* Take this cup – this cup of wrath, suffering. We cry out as we bear our individual suffering, praying that God strengthen us. Imagine taking the sin of all the world. Imagine being the only begotten Son, given to take away the sin of the world. Hebrews 12:2 tells us, in part that Jesus *endured the cross, despising the shame*. He despised the shame of the Cross, but endured it. We mustn’t forget that Jesus was fully man and fully God. He knew what lay ahead, but He also knew that His sacrifice would save the world. The Bible tells us in Romans 5 – scarcely for a righteous man will one die. But Jesus died for us while we were yet still sinners. By Adam, sin and death entered the world. Romans 5:15 tells us *But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man’s offense many died (Adam), much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.* Adam, by sin brough death. Jesus, sinless, and by that sinlessness brought eternal life.

Verse 42 finishes with Obedience in Agreement to God. *Nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.* Jesus agrees with God. He’s in perfect unity with God’s plan. In John 10:30, Jesus says – *I and My Father are One*. Perfect unity in purpose and plan. They have the same essence, the same nature, and the same intention. When Jesus taught the disciples to pray in Matthew 6, remember in verse 10 *Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.* Here He says - Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours be done.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jesus didn’t consider it robbery to leave His place in heaven, taking the form of a bondservant, to give His sinless life in exchange for sinners. His purpose was to restore relationship between God and man. His focus was others, regardless of cost. He agreed with God and took us from eternal death to eternal life, through His obedience to the will of the Father, being One in agreement with God.

And so we must be in our lives. As Christian’s, we seek to walk in the way of Jesus. What does that mean? He tells us to take up our cross daily and follow. He brought the Gospel to the world. We spread the Gospel throughout the world. His focus was not on self – Not My will. His focus was on the plan of God, reaching the lost – but Yours be done. Likewise, we must examine ourselves daily, ensuring that we are trusting and obeying God’s plan, submitting to His will – uttering the words with fear and trembling - Nevertheless, not my will, but Your will be done. We make a daily choice to accept the blessing of participating in the plan made by our Creator. We remove self from the center of the Temple we call our body, and place the Holy Spirit squarely in the center. We agree with God because know Who He is.

This week, let’s continue our examination of our agreement with God. Trust tells a story. Obedience tells a story. What story is it telling in our lives? We won’t experience the true Peace of God while we are rebelling against God. We can’t be in rebellion and at Peace. We can’t be pursuing the world and living for God. We can’t serve God and mammon. Jesus chose agreement with God. May we choose the same, forsaking all else, and serving His will all of our days.