

“He Went a Little Farther”

Matthew 26:39

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Matthew 26:39** – “**He went on a little farther** and fell face down on the ground, praying, ‘My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine.’”
- B. How far He had already come!
1. “Out of the ivory palaces into a world of woe.”
 2. From the pinnacle of glory to that Bethlehem stable.
 3. All the long way from the bosom of the Father to the womb of the virgin Mary.
 4. After leaving Heaven, He had been to Bethlehem . . . To Egypt . . . To Nazareth . . . To Capernaum . . . The lake country, around and about Galilee . . . North and south . . . East and west . . . as:
 - a. A pilgrim
 - b. A preacher and teacher
 - c. An itinerant prophet
 - d. A homeless stranger in the world His hands had made.
- C. And if that wasn’t far enough . . . And now, “He went on a little farther”
1. He went that dark and dreadful “second mile.”
 2. Trace the steps . . . Measure their length . . . Span the great yawning gulf of agony that each step spanned until He came to the last of them all . . . That giant leap back from whence He had come.
- D. Where did going “a little farther” take Him.

IT TOOK HIM TO **GETHSEMANE** . . . Where He gained victory over the flesh.

- A. Jesus was not rebelling against His Father’s will when He asked that the cup of suffering be taken away.
1. In fact, He reaffirmed His desire to do God’s will by saying, Yet I want Your will, not mine.
 2. His prayer reveals to us His terrible suffering.
 3. His agony was worse than death because he paid for all sin and in order to do so, had to be separated from God.
 4. The sinless Son of God took our sins upon Himself to save us from suffering and separation from God.
 5. The flesh was crying out . . . God’s will subdued it.
- B. Are you obediently close to God . . . Or, are you separated from God.

1. If you are separated from God in life, you will be separated from God in Death.
2. If you are separated from God at death, you will be separated from God in eternity.

IT TOOK HIM TO **GABBATHA** . . . Where He gained victory over the world.

- A. Gabbatha for the Aramaic or Hebrew meaning ridge, or height, with a practical meaning of the ridge of the house, or the temple-mound, was located in Jerusalem near the Fortress of Antonia, a combined palace and Roman military barracks named after Mark Anthony.
1. It was connected to the northwest corner of the temple area.
 2. Gabbatha was covered with a mosaic of colored stones and hence was known as “The Pavement.”
 3. It was the custom of the Romans governors to conduct their tribunals in open areas, so a judgment seat was placed on the pavement outside the judgment hall or Pratorium.
 4. It was here that Pilate judged Jesus . . . Who in turn would one day judge Pilate.
- B. So determined to kill Jesus, here the religious leaders broke several commandments in order to do so.
1. Jesus was gaining victory over the world at Gabbatha.
 - a. False charges were made against Jesus . . . He remained silent. He was as a sheep before it shearers.
 - b. He was charged with being a worldly king . . . He was a spiritual King.
 - c. He was struck . . . He did not strike back.
 - d. He was charged with beings an enemy of Rome . . . He was a true friend to all who would befriend Him.
 - e. Religious politics ruled the day . . . But truth would win out in time.
 2. Jesus overcame the strongest efforts of the religious leaders and the Roman governor to overcome the world and become the Savior of all mankind.

IT TOOK HIM TO **GOLGOTHA** . . . Where He gained victory over Satan

- A. Jesus died to remove what Satan had introduced into the world . . . **Sin!**
1. The lord of this world (Satan) was defeated by the Lord of Heaven.
 2. Sin cannot stand strong in the face of truth.
 3. Light dispels darkness . . . Truth dispels sin.
 4. Christ would free what the devil had enslaved.
 5. Christ would buy back what the devil had taken from God.

6. It took time . . . But God’s plan defeated the one who defeated Adam & Eve with his lies and trickery.
- B. **1 John 4:4** – “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”
- C. The cross became the dividing line for all eternity for all people.
- D. Because of the cross . . .
1. For the Christian, death is the last shadow before Heaven’s dawn.
 2. For the Christian, death is not extinguishing the light . . . It is putting out the lamp because dawn has come.
 3. For the Christian, death is not gloom but glory.
 4. For the Christian death is not the end but the beginning.
 5. For the Christian death is not a tragedy but a triumph.
 6. For the Christian, death cannot sever what the cross unites.
- D. Listening friends . . . God wants you to have a happy forever.

IT TOOK HIM TO THE GRAVE . . . Where He gained victory over death and Hades.

- A. And now we can triumphantly say: “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” **1 Corinthians 15:55**
1. Have you checked eternity’s scoreboard lately?
 - a. Heaven wins and Satan loses.
 - b. God wins and Satan loses.
 - c. Christ wins and Satan loses.
 - d. The Holy Spirit wins and Satan loses.
 2. What does this mean for us?
 - a. We win and Satan loses.
 - b. We can be forgiven of all our sins.
 - c. We can be saved eternally.
 - d. We can go to Heaven and live forever in eternal glory.
- B. Jesus going “a little farther” to the grave helped provide this for us.

IT TOOK HIM TO GLORY . . . Where He gained victory over time as we know it.

- A. Jesus returned to His home in Heaven a Victor. He won . . . Satan lost.
- B. Now eternity could welcome those who would choose to be cleansed by the blood of the Lamb of God.
- C. Time as we know it will not stand.
1. Time as we know it will end.
 2. Eternity as God knows it will endure perpetually . . . And because of the cross, we can be with God forever and ever and ever.
- D. God gave Jesus the glory His faithful Son deserved.

1. **Revelation 5:9** – “And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation’”
2. **1 Timothy 3:16** – “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”

E. Death is the last chapter of time . . . But the first chapter of eternity.

F. Glory comes after the cross . . . Glory comes after life . . . Glory will come for all of God’s children . . . For all of God’s family.

CONCLUSION:

A. **Matthew 26:39** – “He went on a little farther and fell face down on the ground, praying, ‘My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine.’”

1. Those were giant steps for us.
 - a. **Gethsemane – Victory over the FLESH**
 - b. **Gabbatha – Victory over the WORLD**
 - c. **Golgotha – Victory over SATAN**
 - d. **Grave – Victory over DEATH and HADES**
 - e. **Glory – Victory over TIME as we know it**

2. What steps are you willing to take for Christ?

B. **1 Peter 2:21** – “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.” Will you follow Him . . .

1. Through the **waters of baptism**?
2. Through the **wilderness of temptation**?
3. To the **house of worship**?
4. Through the **fields of service**?
5. Upon the **mountain of prayer**?
6. Through the **garden of despair**?
7. To the **cross of suffering**?
8. Through the **valley of death**?
9. To the **throne of God**?

C. **God’s Plan for man’s Salvation**