

“The Perseverance of Jesus”
November 2, 2014

Mark 14:26-52

CORE: Jesus is the ultimate picture of perseverance—an Overcomer who “happens to the world” (not vice versa). He desires the same for us.

NOTE: When His disciples debated who would be “greatest” (“Great”- *to have lasting impact on the world*), He didn’t discourage their desire. He just redefined their understanding of greatness—not a position (“right or left side of the throne”) but a posture of the heart (*serving from a place of settled confidence; the root of “perseverance” is “to ABIDE”*). John 15- “Glorifies Father”

1. He did not allow His CIRCUMSTANCES to circumvent His CALLING.

NOTE: Our primary destiny is devotion to Him (i.e., “Abide”)

a. Leaving the Passover meal, they “sang a hymn” as they proceeded to “Gethsemane” (Lit.- “the oil press”)—a painful refining process that brings forth healing.

The “hymn” was Psalm 116-118. Listen to these powerful, timely declarations:

(Psalm 118:6-7; 22-24; 25-28, The Passion Translation)

- b. Jesus then told His disciples for the second time that they would both deny and desert Him. He would go to the Cross—completely alone. This would fulfill Zechariah 13:7- “Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.”**
- c. Yet, this painful process would bring forth a faithful, powerful people on the earth! Zechariah continues: “I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name and I will answer them: I will say, ‘They are My people!’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God!’”**
- d. Mark 14:28- Jesus already had a plan for their restoration.**
- a. “I will rise & go ahead of you into Galilee” (words repeated by the angel at the tomb in Mark 16:6-7).**
 - b. Relationships restored**
 - c. Failures forgiven (i.e., Peter’s denial; disciples abandonment)**
 - d. Strongholds of fear broken**
 - e. NOTE: Faith & love prophetically see the appointed end (Hab. 2:3- “The revelation awaits the appointed time”)**
 - i. Honor calls for the greatness in people**
 - ii. “Peter, when—not “if”—you come through, you will strengthen your brothers!”**

NOTE: The Persevering One can take you through your QUESTIONS, your DISAPPOINTMENTS, and your FAILURES!

2. PRAYER is the KEY to PERSEVERANCE!

PRAYER IS:

- **Place of REST** (not escape)
- **Where ENDURANCE is built** (not avoidance)
- **Place of DEEP, RELATIONAL COMMUNION with God** (not merely registering your requests)

As they were together in the atmosphere of **PRAYER**, **Jesus was free to be painfully honest with His friends: “I am troubled & deeply distressed” ...“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow” (i.e., inner agony).**

Why?

- **He “BECAME SIN” (2 Cor. 5:21)—1st (and only time) He would be separated from His Father**
- **ABANDONMENT. The most painful of all human experiences.**

PRAYER is the way to receive a “willing spirit” (Psalm 51:12) (“Give me more of Your Spirit wind so that I may stand strong and true to You!” TPT)

- **Jesus BOWED His heart & life. “Abba”- familiarity & closeness; honor & dependency.**
- **He WENT FORTH CONFIDENTLY! This is “My cup” & “My hour” (v. 35) “Rise up! Let’s go! My betrayer has come!” (v. 42)**

3. PERSEVERANCE “endures hostility” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

HUGE CONTRAST:

- **Anger (Sanhedrin—ruling class {chief priests, teachers of the law, the elders}; armed Roman soldiers & police)**
- **Dramatic display of “affection” (Judas’ kiss)**
- **Impassioned proclamation of bravery (Peter: “Never will I betray You!”)**
- **Jesus simply walking in steady obedience!**

NOTE: Our calling is not always comfortable (i.e., CEA choosing “darker” place)

CONCLUSION:

VIDEO- Kish & Rachel Johnson’s son, Asher (Rick & MaryAnn Hartman’s grandson)

2 Thessalonians 3:5- “May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love & Christ’s perseverance.”