

“EMPOWERED TO GO THROUGH IT”

St. Mark 14: 32 – 36 (NKJV)

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

Pastor Darrell Jackson, Sr.

- As we enter into this Holy Week, the most sacred time of the year throughout all of Christendom, we will continue to look at how we as believers are empowered by the events that took place this week some two thousand year ago.
- The bedrock of our faith rests upon the validity of the events of this week.
- Because Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice during this “Week of Passion,” we now have access to the ultimate life.
- As we discuss the sacrifice of Jesus, it is important for us to understand that although He is the Son of God, He was also as human as we are.
- It is somewhat ironic that we so strongly embrace Jesus’ divinity and not His humanity. He was both human and divine.
- Hebrews 4: 15 tells us that “For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” (ASV)
- In our scriptural text, we witness Jesus in His state of humanity.
- Let us examine what happens in the text, and see what lessons we can learn from this experience.
- The text begins on what is now known as Palm Sunday, one week before the resurrection.
- St. John, Chapter twelve tells us that as Jesus rode into the City of Jerusalem on a colt, many stood on the side of the road crying “Hosanna, blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.” (KJV)
- However, their praises quickly turned into animosity when they realized that Jesus was not going to deliver them from Roman oppression, and they discovered that He was not going to do what they wanted.

- In the text Jesus was troubled in His spirit by what He knew was awaiting Him: betrayal, denial, rejection, and crucifixion.
- So He did what most of us would have done, He went to a private place, called Gethsemane, and cried out to the Lord.
- We have all been there - a place where we went to cry out to the Lord for all the things we were going through in our lives; things we know we will have to deal with; things that others just do not understand.
- We will call these times, Gethsemane moments.
- In verse 36, Jesus cries out "Abba, Father, ... take this cup away from Me."
- Jesus agonized over what He knew He had to go through.
- He referred to his burden as "this cup."
- Psalm 11:6 associates the term "cup" with suffering.
- Finally, let us note how Jesus concludes His conversation with God. He says at the end of verse 36 "...nevertheless, not what I will, but what You *will*."
- He knew it would be hard, and He knew that He would be forsaken by those He loved.
- Jesus knew that in the garden He was facing the most difficult time in His life.
- However, He also knew that He was empowered by God to go through what He came to this earth to do.
- Jesus knew that He had been empowered to fulfill His destiny.
- As we encounter the hardships and challenges of life, let us remember three things:
 1. It is all a part of being human.
 2. Submit your will to God's will.
 3. We are empowered by God to go through it to fulfill our destiny.