

## MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

Mark 14:1 - 16:20

Key verse 15,34

"And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" – which means, „My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Today we study about Jesus' suffering, his death on the cross and his resurrection. Today, let us learn about how Jesus completed God's work of redemption. In Gethsemane, Jesus struggled in prayer for the completion of God's redemptive work. He chose not to help Himself and to give His life as a ransom for many. He even had to bear the pain of being abandoned by God for our redemption. Thanks and praise be to the Lord who fulfilled God's plan of redemption through obedience in His shameful suffering and death on the cross. Today, let us learn the counsel of God and follow in His footsteps of obedience of faith and be used as global spiritual leaders for His work of salvation.

### 1. Jesus' Passion (14:1 - 15:20a)

There were two days left until the Passover. Now the Jewish rulers made a plan to eliminate Jesus. Meanwhile, in the house of Simon the leper, a heart-stirring event took place.

Let's look at verse 3: "While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head." This woman had personally experienced Jesus' grace of forgiveness and His power to heal and change, and was very grateful to Jesus for it. Out of her gratitude, she decided to give her best to Jesus by pouring the precious, most precious, unadulterated nard oil on Jesus. She poured out her whole heart on Jesus. The bystanders, however, reacted very angrily: "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor. And they rebuked her harshly." But Jesus fully understood the woman's devotion and made it a historical event. Let's look at verses 6-8: "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The

poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial."

Like this woman, numerous servants of God have testified to their gratitude to Jesus and His grace by pouring out their most precious things - their entire lives - for Jesus and His work of salvation. Instead of receiving much praise, they received many misunderstandings and afflictions because their devotion was apparently too radical. In gratitude for Jesus' calling grace, M. Sarah Chang has poured out and given her most precious nard oil, her whole life, for Jesus in the last 49 years in Germany. For the salvation work of Jesus, she opened her home and family to serve the students. Her family even lived in a small, cold basement room to receive the sheep. Jesus made their dedication a story of faith that many young students and Next Generation workers were changed into outstanding preachers, shepherds and spiritual leaders.

Let's look at verses 22-24: „While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, „Take it; this is my body.“ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them; and they all drank from it. „This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.“ At the Last Supper, Jesus taught his disciples the deep meaning of his suffering and crucifixion. Jesus, as God's Lamb, would give His body and blood completely for the salvation of sinners. At the Last Supper, Jesus showed his love to the end to the traitor Judas Iscariot. After the meal, Jesus and his disciples went out to the Mount of Olives.

At the foot of the Mount of Olives was the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus took his top disciples Peter, James and John to watch and pray

with him. First, he confessed to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." Jesus was overcome with grief and fear of his impending suffering and death. In this personally very difficult hour, he went a little further into prayer. First, Jesus came to God with his own desire. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. [...]". Jesus wished not to have to experience the coming sufferings. But in prayer, Jesus struggled to respect God's will more than his own. Therefore, he prayed, "...take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will!" Jesus wrestled so hard that his sweat was even like blood dripping on the ground (Luke 20:44). In the hard struggle of prayer, Jesus made a decision of faith to obey God's counsel to the end and to give His life as a ransom for many for the fulfillment of God's work of redemption. Jesus did not have to suffer the painful, shameful death on the cross. But Jesus chose to love us, unlovable sinners, and to give His life so that all who believe in Him may not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Through the visionary mission trip to Turkey last week, I was able to realize God's counsel for my life once again, that He wants to use my life precious for the world mission even to the Muslim countries as a mother of faith. The time of the mission trip to Turkey was for me the time of prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. God helped me to make a decision of faith based on the Word of God from Mark 11:22 to use my new life and give all my possessions for the world mission, no matter what the cost. God continues to lead me according to His promise from Genesis 12:2 and use me as a great blessing worldwide and above all a courage of faith in His history of salvation. May God bless my decision to work together for the Shepherding of the Sheep and for the KBG Business Mission.

Now Judas the betrayer came with an armed band to take Jesus captive. Immediately all the disciples deserted him and fled. Jesus was brought before the high council to be interrogated and accused. The high priest asked, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" To this Jesus replied, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." Jesus identified Himself as the Christ and as the true Judge. Jesus did not try to defend himself with words and thereby somehow prevent the condemnation. Jesus had already

made a clear decision to fulfill the counsel of God through His death to the cross.

Meanwhile, we see that Peter, when asked by a maid, broke his promise that he would lay down his life for Jesus and denied Jesus to save his life.

Jesus was then taken to Pilate. Pilate recognized Jesus' innocence. But instead of clearly standing on the side of truth, he only tried to save Jesus through political tricks and compromises. But because he wanted to please the people, he finally handed Jesus over to crucifixion, forgetting his own Roman principles. It was the greatest failure of secular justice.

All of them, Judas, the disciples, the religious superiors of the Jews, Peter and even the Roman governor Pilate failed when they were not on the side of God. Humanly speaking, Jesus was the victim of the greatest human failure in history. But spiritually, Jesus won the overwhelming spiritual victory for our salvation by his prayer struggle in Gethsemane and by his decision for the will of God!

## 2. Jesus' death and resurrection (15:20b-16:20)

Now Jesus was led out to the crucifixion. Simon of Cyrene participated involuntarily in the suffering of Jesus by carrying the cross a little for Jesus against his will. But through this, he and his family were blessed and became good co-workers for the apostles. The cross of Jesus has the power to change. At Golgotha, the soldiers gave Jesus myrrh in wine, to relieve the pain. But Jesus would not drink it because he was determined to take all the pain upon himself for the redemption of sinners. The soldiers drove long iron nails through Jesus' hands and feet. Then they raised the cross. Each shock caused Jesus indescribable pain. He was crucified between two criminals as if he were the worst of them. The passers-by mocked him: "He saved others! [...] But he can't save himself." So Satan tried Jesus to come down from the cross. But Jesus did not save Himself to save you and me from the power of Satan. Thus, Jesus won the overwhelming spiritual victory by paying His life as the ransom for the redemption of mankind. He shed His holy blood on the cross and gave His life without rest until the ignominious death on the cross.

Let us now read verses 33 and 34: "At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" – which means, „My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" What is the meaning of Jesus' cry on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me"?"

First, Jesus was forsaken by God. When Jesus suffered and died on the cross, the whole creation wept, and even the sun lost its light. For three hours, darkness reigned over the whole land. But in addition to the unbearable physical pain and all the temptations of the devil, it must have been the worst for Jesus to be separated and abandoned by his Father. The holy cannot be together with sinning. Now, when all the sins of the world were on Jesus, God could no longer be with Jesus. He had to leave him. For the salvation of man from the power of sin, what was actually inseparable was separated. For the liberation of man from the power of sin, what was actually holy became unholy. Jesus was cursed by God and had to be expelled because he bore our sin. Jesus died in the greatest pain and utter loneliness for our salvation, to pay the price of sin for us. Jesus was forsaken by God so that I may have a true, eternal life in God! Jesus was forsaken by God so that I may even have access into His eternal Kingdom and be exalted to be God's heirs and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17).

I was one of the worst sinners with full of low desires and wrong life purpose. I even took advantage of shepherd love of my shepherd and thus destroyed all love relationships in the church of God. I actually had to be thrown away to eternal hell. However, Jesus was forsaken by God in my place and died on the cross for my sin. On the cross, Jesus also took all my sins upon Himself and suffered the greatest and most excruciating pain, having to be forsaken even by God Himself. He cried out for my sake, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" This is how he set me free from the power of sin. Thus he opened the new living way to eternal salvation and gave me a new life as a shepherdess and a courageous believer. Thanks and praise be to the Lord that he wants to use my new life for the world mission through the Campus Mission and for the mobilization of the Next Generation in a precious way. Praise the Lord! What a great grace of God it is for me!

Secondly, Jesus willingly suffered to the shameful death. Why was Jesus able to obey the counsel of God to the shameful death on the cross, enduring the suffering and agony of loneliness? He could do this because he loved us, the sinners. But even more, he loved his Father and was obedient to him. Out of His love for us and out of His obedience to His Father in heaven, He was able to willingly bear all the sufferings on the cross vicariously for us.

Verse 37 says, "With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last." Jesus won the overwhelming victory of faith by His love and by His obedience to the counsel of God. With our own strength, we cannot even free ourselves from our ego and from our sin. But Jesus has set us free by his death on the cross already 2000 years ago: Free from the power of sin. Free from the power of death. Free from ego domination. Free from the wrath of God. Free to serve God with our new life from now on. Through Jesus' obedience to death on the cross, God's plan of salvation for mankind was fulfilled. It is finished! It is finished! Now the new, living way into the Kingdom of God is open for you, for me and for all of us!

Jesus' love and obedience work then and now with spiritual power. Just as Jesus' obedience worked in a Roman centurion, in Nicodemus and in Joseph of Arimathea, Jesus' obedience to death on the cross still works something great today in every person who believes in Jesus' work of redemption. Jesus' obedience did something great last year in Joshua, Samuel, Sarah Schweitzer, Peter Joseph and Sarah Grace, for example, that they repented of their sinful desires and ego domination and made a decision with 1 Peter 4:13 to suffer cheerfully together with Christ and work well together for the work of God. Let us love Jesus' obedience and walk in Jesus' footsteps that we may put on Jesus' spiritual authority and serve the young students on campus through Bible study and also mobilize our NG co-workers. God raise up each of them as influential Bible teachers and spiritual leaders in this continent. Under the cross of Jesus, all people have not only hope of salvation but also a victorious influential life as history makers.

Chapter 16 finally tells us about Jesus' glorious victory over the power of death. The women were very worried about who would roll away the large, heavy stone of the tomb. But the tomb was already open and the angel said to them: "Don't be alarmed," he said. „You are looking for

Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." But when Mary and the two Emmaus disciples who met Jesus, did not believe it. They remained spiritually closed and resigned. They were still so afraid that they shut themselves in a small room (John 20:19).

Jesus visited them again and helped them by rebuking them and gave them the Great Commission. Let us read verses 15 and 16: "He said to them, „Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; but whoever does not believe will be condemned." How could Jesus give such a commission to his fearful disciples? Jesus believed in God. He believed in the mighty working of the Holy Spirit through His Word. He believed in God to empower his disciples, who were now still fearful and weak, to put on spiritual authority, to go out and preach the gospel to all the world. In fact, the Holy Spirit worked powerfully in them so that the Gospel was spread through them to the whole world. The new life is not a continuation of the old life. No, the new life is a life with the mission that comes from the grace of forgiveness and calling.

M. Peter prays to God persistently for the Muslim mission and is determined to work with his house church according to the counsel of God for the world mission unconditionally and regardless of the circumstances. In the time of persecution, he seized God's counsel from Nehemiah 2:17 and Ezekiel 37:10 even more actively than before and prays even more intensely for the spiritual revival in Europe through the disciple-making ministry and for the mobilization of the Next Generation. God works mightily through His obedience and led many Next Generation workers and native shepherds to repent of their old lives and make a clear decision for world mission through the Disciple Education Ministry.

He could retire in his old age. Why is he fighting for world mission more determinedly by even initiating GLEF since 2018? It is because of God's grace and Jesus' Great Commission. God help each of us to hold on to the calling grace of God and Jesus' world mission command of Jesus, and to commit our new life with spiritual authority to His world salvation work no matter what the cost.

Today we have learned about Jesus' obedience to the counsel of God to the point of death on the cross: "Abba Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will!"; "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" – which means, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Praise be to Jesus, who by his suffering and death on the cross won the overwhelming victory of faith for our salvation and became the author of our eternal salvation! Let us love His obedience and learn that we may put on Jesus' spiritual authority and fulfill His Great Commission to the ends of the earth. God will surely open 1700 universities in Germany and Europe through our disciple-making work, build 3 mission bases and fulfill His world mission vision.

Let us read the leading verse together: "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" – which means, „My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"