

Blood in the Garden
The God Who Bleeds Series:
The Scandal of Divine Weakness and Unstoppable Love
Text: Luke 22:39–46; Hebrews 5:7–9

Introduction

The gods of other religions demand blood and distance; the God of Scripture bends down, takes on sorrow, invites us close, and sheds His own blood. **We worship a God who bleeds** for His people (Luke 22:39–46).

I. The Weight of the Cup – TRUST

Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done. **Luke 22:42¹ (ESV)**

In the hand of the Lord there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and He pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs. **Psalms 75:8 (ESV)**

- (cf. Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15)—the cup symbolizes judgment.

Jesus interprets this cup as the full weight of divine wrath for human sin, which He chooses to drink on our behalf (Luke 22:42; Matthew 26:39; 1 Corinthians 10:16).

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)**

Application: Faith trusts not only for salvation but also for surrender — “Nevertheless, not my will, but Yours.”

II. The Agony of the Struggle – SURRENDER

And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him. And **being in agony** He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. **Luke 22:43-44 (ESV)**

Medical context—hematidrosis, blood mingling with sweat due to extreme anguish.

The “oil press” imagery: Gethsemane is a place of crushing, paralleling Christ's own heart and body (Isaiah 53:3–5; Hebrews 5:7–9).

¹ All scripture in ESV unless otherwise stated.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows... He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities. **Isaiah 53:3–5 (ESV)**

In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. **Hebrews 5:7–9 (ESV)**

Application: Most people want Christianity without agony. We want faith without pressing. We want victory without struggle. God sometimes answers not by removing agony, but by providing supernatural strength to bear up under it.

An angel from heaven strengthening Him. **Luke 22:43 (ESV)**

III. The Power of Prayer – Pray

And when He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” **Luke 22:45 (ESV)**

Temptation is not merely external, but internal—the pressure to despair, deny, retreat (cf. John 18:10; Luke 22:57–60).

Jesus' victory begins in prayer before the cross; disciples' failure begins in neglect of prayer.

Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power... and pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. **Ephesians 6:10, 18 (ESV)**

Application: Prayer prepares believers for trials; faith is fortified before storms arrive.

Conclusion / Invitation

- Jesus drank the cup so we could drink the blessing (1 Corinthians 10:16).
- He endured agony so we gain strength,
- He prayed through the night, so we learn how prayer steadies us.
- In every personal Gethsemane—trust, surrender, and pray.