



Dave & Putter



WORLD CULT EVANGELISM

Reaching The Unreached At Your Doorstep And Around The World

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March 2016



WHAT WAS IN THE GARDEN CUP?

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour (John 12:27).

When the Lord Jesus Christ, the Sinless Lamb of God, was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed three times and asked His Father to "take away this cup from me." So, what was in the cup? Some have suggested, without reference to any verse in context, that Jesus, in a moment of human weakness, was asking the Father if there was another way other than the cross. This would mean that Jesus' prayer was a self-serving and self-centered attempt to abort His mission. The idea of a "moment of human weakness" also implies that His human nature was like ours rather than impeccable. The lack of hermeneutical soundness is a prevalent sign of preaching that has gone awry. Ps 11:3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? The answer is: rebuild them by relearning the rules of hermeneutics.

A look at the Lord's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane from the synoptic gospels is the best way to focus on the context. Before we do that, let's take a look at what was **not** in the cup. These verses in John make it clear that Jesus was not referring to Calvary in His garden prayer, for He knew His time to be crucified was very near.

John 12:23&27; 23 *And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. 27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*

The context of the synoptic gospels will show that death was in the cup, but it was not His death at Calvary; rather, it was the immediate threat of His death in the Garden that prompted Him to pray three times saying, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Matt 26:37-39 *And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.* At this point He was about to physically die.

Mark 14:33-36 *And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; 34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. 35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.*

Luke 22:41-45 *And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, 42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. 43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. 45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow.*

Our Lord's prayer was answered within moments when the angel came to strengthen Him and the cup of death, imminent death in the Garden, was soon removed. The Lord's sorrow and agony in the Garden was, in part, a fulfilling of the prophecies in Isa 53. Much of the mental suffering mentioned in Isaiah's prophecy, Christ experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane before His physical sufferings began.

It is my prayer that the Lord would help each of us to preach the text concerning Christ's passion with hermeneutical soundness and give Him the glory that He truly is worthy to receive. May we never again hear someone preaching on Easter Sunday that Christ, in a moment of human weakness, was uncertain about His willingness to become our sacrifice. Never again, no; a 1000 times no!

Heb 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

O, what a Saviour, what a victory, and what a reason to celebrate Easter, resurrection day, and spread the gospel. May the sweet Lord Jesus bless you all richly on His day.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FIELD

SOWING AND REAPING

The Lord is so good and we are blessed to see His Spirit at work in the lives of so many people. We'll start first with the reaping stories.

Several months ago I met a man that married a lady (1 of 5 girls) who was raised by a JW mom. After leaving home, only one sister stayed in the Watchtower (WT). I witnessed to him concerning his need to be saved and gave him five copies of *CHECKMATE* for his wife and siblings. We met on a number of other occasions and I had the joy of leading him to Christ. He and his wife are now attending church.

In December of 2012, we (Kent Prain and I) met with a JW man and wife in Taylors, SC. Afterwards I sent him a number of mail-outs and in February of 2014 Kent delivered to him a copy of *CHECKMATE*. Last week he called Kent and told him that he was ready to leave the WT and wanted to meet with him. Please pray for him. His name is Ian. I will keep you posted. From 2012 to 2016 is four years. The average time for a JW to leave the WT, after his eyes are opened, is seven years. We are praying now for his salvation and the situation with his wife, who may resist his move.

This is a reminder to keep praying for another meeting with Michael. I am trying to schedule one in May, when my therapy has ended. It has been almost four years since we began talking with him. He has come a long way, but lacks faith in Jesus.

Got an email from a lady that received a referral from my doctor. I had given him a copy of *CHECKMATE* about a year ago.

She has a daughter who is now engaged to a Mormon missionary. Heartbroken and bewildered are words that only scarcely describe the grief of her parents. I met for about three hours with them and could completely understand how our people (young and old) are unequipped . . . To be continued!

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOK

Excitement is mounting about the soon release of *The Sunday School Book* (TSSB). The feedback has been very positive by those who have already started the transition from listening centers to learning centers. Others are waiting for the completion of our new website that will capture the stories of lives changed by the power and presence of God's Word in their permanent memory. May the Lord be glorified! Kevin Callahan, a former student of mine in 1970s, who is now the president of a mission board, International Partnership Ministries, Inc. (IPM), tells the story of how his life was impacted when his Sunday school class was changed into a learning center. In the foreword, he writes the first words in the book and gives every reader a positive perspective of how being a teacher rather than a speaker and how reaching the permanent memory can be a life changing experience for the glory of God. IPM's website (www.ipmworld.org) is a good place to get more information about his ministry.

One of the requirements to be a *Sunday School Book* teacher is to be certified. Certification is simply giving a testimony that whatever lesson is being taught has been memorized by the teacher. Another words, he is teaching things that he knows rather reading something to you from a quarterly or a notebook. Certificates will be issued from the TSSB website (www.tssbedu.net) for each of the 12 lessons and those who memorize all 12 lessons will receive a TSSB certification that qualifies them to receive the title of a TSSB certified teacher. Let's go!! Who will be the first to be a TSSB certified teacher in your church?

"PUTTER'S PEN"

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Spiritually speaking, what you sow you reap, and that is a very good principle to live by; however, when sewing, what you sew you rip! Sometimes you rip a lot! A few weeks ago Mary Beth asked me to help her make a costume for Drew for his school play. We would have to design and sew it since she could not find a pattern for it. I know I am no Ralph Lauren or Vera Wang, but I am good with a thread and needle and come on, how hard could an elementary school play costume be to make? Oh did I mention: he was playing Humpty Dumpty.

The first thing we did was decide to use a hoola hoop to give us the form we needed...and it went downhill from there. First 'rip' was when we realized the hoop would not fit; we needed more fabric. After the third 'rip' the costume was looking more like *dumpty than Humpty!* With just a week to go I was beginning to feel Humpty's pain; we kept falling off the wall and all the kings men and horses were not putting us together again!

The final 'rip' was sewed and the show went on! Humpty Dumpty was a hit; of course I think that had to do more with Drew's acting and singing ability than Mamaw's sewing ability!

Until next time, Jehovah-jireh,

"Putter"
Dave & Putter
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Isa. 41:10

