

Dave & Putter

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The Weeks Family



WORLD CULT EVANGELISM

Reaching The Unreached At Your Doorstep And Around The World

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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; takeaway 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

NEW CONTACTS We serve an awesome God and He

never ceases to amaze me. I

recently started praying differently about contacts with the cults. I asked my heavenly Father to lead me to people who would receive His Son and then give me the joy of giving them the gospel. You know how God is, right? He loves souls and loves to answer the prayers of those who walk uprightly with Him. He's a good God and so good to me. Now here's what He did. Two of the new contacts are JWs who were redirected to me by three other JWs who spoke with me a number of times but could not escape the checkmates. After of months of waiting for them to return, they said that two other JWs would contact me who could answer my questions. Their names are Therrence and Robert. They are two of the most respectful and knowledgeable JWs that I've ever encountered. After speaking with them an hour, they assured me that they would return with answers to my questions. That was a month ago and I have texted them to schedule an appointment, but no response. Why? Checkmate, game over! There is nothing that they can say honestly that would undo the authority of Scripture. I'll keep praying for the Spirit's conviction. The second new contact was a Shiá Muslim, a young man in his early 20's who started out with the passage in Deuteronomy 18 they proving that try to use in Mohammed was the greater

prophet like unto Moses. Once he

agreed to the context rule, the line

ended. I spoke to him about being

in Sudan during Ramadan and

seeing lambs being brought for

sacrifice. This leads immediately

to Jesus, the only sacrifice that God

will accept for sin. As you may

know, this is a long journey for any

Muslim to travel. Please keep this

dear young man and the JWs in 🥋

TSSB SUPPORTER UPDATES

This update is from another church that is using *The Sunday School Book* to certify students who complete all 12 lessons.

"At Central Baptist Church of Woodbridge, Virginia, we are in our eleventh consecutive year of Saturday Bible Institute for the purpose of training our adults for service for the Lord.

We are so impressed with Dave and Putter Weeks' The Sunday School Book, that we have begun to use it as a basis for teaching the next 3 or 4 years with a goal of TSSB certification by as many adults as possible. So far, we have matriculated about 60 students (45 who are local and 15 who are in Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas, Iowa, Ohio, and California.) It has been a great course to teach, and our students are enjoying it. We are re-visiting the material in Adult Sunday School in order maximize their learning and their application practical of material.

I would recommend this method to every local church and pastor. Feel free to contact me for further details. May God bless you.

Your Friend,

Dr. Brad Weniger"

In June and July, I start my first sixweek, in a church, scheduled Sunday school course. The goal is to equip each student to dialog with JWs or Mormons so that in one conversation they know that they are lost without any hope.

If you are interested in signing up for a course, whatever day or days that would suit you best can be arranged. This is an opportunity to learn how to impact the lives of the unreached. Seeing that they are lost is their first step to salvation.

"PUTTER'S PEN" WRITES AGAIN

Ps 143:5 I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands. Aren't you glad the Lord created us with a memory? Dave and I are at that time in life when it is time to downsize. As we began to clean out our home and put it on the market, it seemed every closet I cleaned, every drawer I sorted out, every picture I took off the wall and every knick-knack I packed up had a memory attached to it. Some brought me to tears others laughter, but all precious memories. While packing up the tablecloths for the dining room table I remembered our first Thanksgiving dinner where all the kids were around the table once again! Going through the linen closet and folding up sheets reminded me of all the many Saturday mornings I woke up to extra bodies of the kids' friends who spent the night sleeping on the sofa or floor. Going through my office brought memories of ladies meetings, bible studies, sleepovers fun nights with Sunday School classes. While cleaning up the yard I was reminded of Jessica's joy when getting off the school bus to find Hercules, her dog, who was lost back home. The memories of David's first vehicle (an old truck) blowing smoke all over the neighborhood, and Jessica tying the neighbor's horse to the front porch brought a smile on my face as did the flashback of the Weeks Kids Tree House being built. In the kitchen memories of the many Gingerbread Houses the grandkids made over the years at the kitchen table and the fun times at our Weeks Women Annual Seasonal Sweet Swap at Christmas time. Memories of the many birthday parties, baby and bridal showers and graduation parties and girl's fun nights also flooded my mind. I enjoyed great memories of times of discipleship classes, bible studies and home prayer meetings around the dining room table.

I believe the funniest memory was cleaning the kitchen when I remembered the time I forgot my house key and thought I could just go through the kitchen window... and got stuck!

Thank You Lord for memories.

You know what the best part is about memories? They don't need to be packed up to take with you! Praise the Lord for memories, time to make some new ones!

Until next time, Jehovah-jireh,

Dave & Putter
Isa. 41:10