

Luke 22:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Analysis

In Gethsemane, Jesus prays: 'Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.' This prayer reveals Jesus' genuine humanity—He shrinks from the horror of the cross, asking if there's another way. The 'cup' represents God's wrath against sin that Jesus will bear (Isaiah 51:17, 22). Yet Jesus immediately submits: 'nevertheless not my will, but thine.' The Greek 'plēn' (πλήν, nevertheless) indicates strong contrast—His desire versus God's will. Perfect obedience means submitting our desires to God's will, even when it means suffering. Jesus models this, choosing the Father's will over His own preferences.

Historical Context

Gethsemane means 'oil press'—fitting location for Jesus' crushing agony. He took Peter, James, and John to watch and pray (v. 40) but they fell asleep (v. 45). Jesus' anguish was so intense that He sweat drops like blood (hematidrosis, v. 44), a rare medical condition under extreme stress. An angel appeared strengthening Him (v. 43). This scene reveals redemption's cost—what Jesus willingly endured to save sinners. His prayer 'remove this cup' showed the cross's horror—not merely physical death but bearing God's wrath and separation from the Father. Yet He chose obedience over comfort, mission over ease.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' prayer to remove the cup while submitting to God's will teach about balancing honest prayer with ultimate submission?
2. How does Jesus' choosing the Father's will over His own model proper response when God's will conflicts with our desires?

Interlinear Text

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|--------|--------|---------|-----------------|-------------|-------|------------|-------|------|
| λέγων, | Πάτερ | εἰ | βούλει | παρενεγκεῖν | τὸ | ποτήριον | | |
| Saying | Father | if | thou be willing | remove | G3588 | cup | | |
| G3004 | G3962 | G1487 | G1014 | G3911 | | G4221 | | |
| τοῦτο | ἀπ' | ἐμοῦ· | πλὴν | μὴ | τὸ | θέλημά μου | ἀλλὰ | |
| this | from | me | nevertheless | not | G3588 | will | my | but |
| G5124 | G575 | G1700 | G4133 | G3361 | | G2307 | G3450 | G235 |
| τὸ | σὸν | γενέσθω | | | | | | |
| G3588 | thine | be done | | | | | | |
| | G4674 | G1096 | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:39 (Parallel theme): 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.

Matthew 26:42 (Parallel theme): He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

Mark 14:36 (Parallel theme): 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.

Psalms 40:8 (Parallel theme): I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Matthew 20:22 (Parallel theme): But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

John 18:11 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

John 5:30 (Parallel theme): I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 6:38 (Parallel theme): For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

John 4:34 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Isaiah 51:22 (Parallel theme): Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: