

Mark 14:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

Analysis

He taketh with him Peter and James and John—Jesus chose His inner circle of three disciples who witnessed His transfiguration (Mark 9:2) to accompany Him deeper into Gethsemane. This selective intimacy reveals Christ's humanity: even the sinless Son of God needed human companionship in His darkest hour.

Began to be sore amazed (ἐκθαμβεῖσθαι, ekthambeisthai)—an intense Greek word suggesting overwhelming astonishment or horror, used only by Mark in the NT. **To be very heavy** (ἀδημονεῖν, adēmonein) means to be distressed, troubled to the point of anguish. This is not mere sadness but visceral dread as Christ faced the full weight of divine wrath against sin. Isaiah 53:10 promised that "it pleased the LORD to bruise him"—here we see the psychological torment preceding Calvary's physical suffering. Jesus experienced true human emotion without sin, proving He is our sympathetic High Priest (Hebrews 4:15).

Historical Context

Gethsemane, an olive grove on the Mount of Olives, was a place Jesus frequently visited (Luke 22:39). Mark, likely drawing from Peter's eyewitness testimony, uses the most vivid Greek vocabulary of all the Gospel writers to describe Christ's agony. This moment occurred within hours of Jesus's arrest and crucifixion, as He confronted the cup of God's wrath He would drink for sinners.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's emotional anguish in Gethsemane comfort you when you face overwhelming distress?
2. Why did Jesus take only three disciples with Him? What does this teach about different levels of spiritual intimacy and vulnerability?

Interlinear Text

καὶ παραλαμβάνει τὸν Πέτρον καὶ τὸν Ἰάκωβον καὶ
And **he taketh** G3588 **Peter** **And** G3588 **James** **And**
G2532 G3880 G4074 G2532 G2385 G2532

Ἰωάννην μεθ' αὐτοῦ καὶ ἤρξατο ἐκθαμβεῖσθαι καὶ
John **with** **him** **And** **began** **to be sore amazed** **And**
G2491 G3326 G1438 G2532 G756 G1568 G2532

ἀδημονεῖν

to be very heavy
G85

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:44 (Parallel theme): 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.

Hebrews 5:7 (Parallel theme): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Mark 5:37 (References Peter): And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

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