

# Mark 14:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

## Analysis

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**My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death** (περίλυπός ἐστιν ἡ ψυχὴ μου ἕως θανάτου)—Jesus declares His psychē (soul, inner life) is perilypos (surrounded by grief, overwhelmed with sorrow) to the point of death itself. This echoes Psalm 42:5-6, 11 and 43:5 where the psalmist cries, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul?" Christ experiences the full weight of anticipatory anguish as He approaches the cup of God's wrath against sin.

**Tarry ye here, and watch** (γρηγορεῖτε)—The command to grēgoreō (stay awake, be vigilant) connects to Jesus' earlier eschatological warnings (Mark 13:33-37). In Gethsemane, spiritual watchfulness becomes intensely personal—Jesus needs human companionship in His agony, yet the disciples will fail three times (vv. 37, 40, 41), prefiguring Peter's three denials. Christ bears the horror of sin's cup alone, tasting the dereliction humanity deserves.

## Historical Context

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Mark's Gospel, written around AD 65-70, presents Jesus to a Roman audience facing persecution. This scene in Gethsemane ("oil press") occurs during Passover week, after the Last Supper. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John—His inner circle who witnessed the Transfiguration (Mark 9:2)—to watch with Him as He faces the Father's will.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' honest expression of sorrowful agony challenge superficial understandings of faith that deny emotional struggle?
2. What does Christ's desire for companionship in suffering teach about the role of community during spiritual trials?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	λέγει	αὐτοῖς	Περίλυπός	ἐστιν	ἡ	ψυχὴ	μου
And	saith	unto them	exceeding sorrowful	is	G3588	soul	My
G2532	G3004	G846	G4036	G2076		G5590	G3450

ἕως	θανάτου·	μείνατε	ᾧδε	καὶ	γρηγορεῖτε
unto	death	tarry ye	here	And	watch
G2193	G2288	G3306	G5602	G2532	G1127

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 12:27** (Parallel theme): 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.

**1 Peter 5:8** (Parallel theme): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: