

Mark 14:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

Analysis

And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground (ἔπιπτεν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς)—the imperfect tense suggests repeated prostration, not a single act. This vivid detail, unique to Mark's eyewitness account (likely from Peter), shows Christ's profound agony. The Greek *proseucheto* (ήρχετο προσεύχεσθαι) implies continuous, agonizing prayer, not casual petition.

That, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him (ἴνα εἰ δυνατόν ἐστιν παρέλθῃ ἀπ' αὐτοῦ ἡ ὥρα)—'the hour' (ἡ ὥρα) is Mark's technical term for Christ's appointed time of suffering and death (cf. Mark 14:41). The conditional 'if it were possible' acknowledges divine sovereignty while expressing genuine human distress. This demonstrates the hypostatic union: Christ's fully human will recoiling from the cup of divine wrath, even as His divine will remains fixed on redemption. He bore not merely physical death but the infinite weight of sin and separation from the Father.

Historical Context

Gethsemane ('oil press') was an olive grove on the Mount of Olives, a place Jesus frequented for prayer (Luke 22:39). Mark's Gospel, traditionally based on Peter's testimony, provides the most visceral details of Christ's agony—Peter witnessed this scene from a distance before falling asleep. Written circa AD 50-60 for Roman Christians facing persecution, this passage showed that even Christ wrestled in prayer under extreme duress.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's genuine distress in prayer challenge shallow views of His humanity or superficial approaches to suffering?
2. What does Jesus's submission ('if it were possible') teach about aligning your will with God's sovereignty in times of anguish?

Interlinear Text

καὶ προελθὼν μικρὸν ἐπεσεν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς καὶ
And he went forward a little and fell on G3588 the ground And
G2532 G4281 G3397 G4098 G1909 G1093 G2532

προσηγένετο ἵνα εἰ δυνατόν ἐστιν παρέλθῃ ἀπ' αὐτοῦ
prayed that if possible it were might pass from him
G4336 G2443 G1487 G1415 G2076 G3928 G575 G846

ἡ ὥρα
the hour
G3588 G5610

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:41 (Parallel theme): And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

