

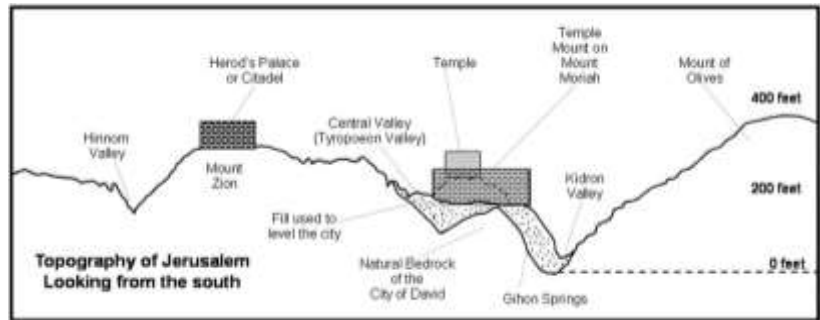
Week of April 8, 2019: Friday – A “Good” Day?

### Discussion Questions Set #1

“Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it”. (John 18:1)

“Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” (Matthew 26:36)

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42)



In sermon, we discussed how Christ’s path to the Garden of Gethsemane follows an ancient escape route from Jerusalem, one specifically used by King David to escape the coup attempt of his son Absalom. In David’s story found in 2 Samuel 15, he escapes through the Kidron Valley – the valley of shadows – and over the Mount of Olives only to eventually return via this same route having been victorious over this coup attempt – though Absalom is now dead.

1. Geography plays an interesting place within the story of Good Friday. Discuss the significance of Christ’s route in comparison with that of King David’s.
2. In Jesus’ Garden of Gethsemane prayer, we are given privy to Christ’s personal conversation with God the Father. As strange as it might be to envision God speaking to God – which is in a sense what we see here – it also gives us a very clear picture of Christ’s humanity. What aspects of Christ’s humanity become clear to you in this prayer?
3. In this prayer, we see Jesus wrestling with a difficult call from God the Father. What might this teach us about our own wrestling with God’s difficult calls upon our lives? Is it permissible to wrestle with the difficult stuff God asks of us? What have you been taught – or what have you gleaned from the church – about wrestling with God’s difficult calls? Is prayer a place you go when you encounter such a call? Why or why not?
4. Is Christ’s Garden prayer more about wrestling with God’s call or about obedience to God’s call? Discuss.
5. Why do you think Jesus accepted the cup of His Father’s wrath?

### Discussion Questions Set #2

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.” (Galatians 5:13)

“A man hanged on a tree is cursed by God”. (Deuteronomy 21:23)

The Messiah would be considered “punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted” (Isaiah 53:4).

In sermon, we discussed how we often are quick to consider the physical pain and suffering that Christ endured on the cross, but we are not quite as aware of the emotional and spiritual toll that the cross posed for Jesus. We learned that Jesus was willing to hang naked, shamed, condemned, and cursed for our benefit.

1. When you think of Christ’s willingness to accept the cursedness of God on our behalf, what thoughts come to mind? Why is it important that Jesus was willing to accept this cursedness for us?
2. What might it mean to be a people who risk “cursedness” and exposure in our culture for our faith in Jesus? What might prevent us from accepting such a role in culture?



### Discussion Questions Set #3

"I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in My Father's Kingdom." (Matthew 26:29)

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)

"Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." (John 19:28-30).

In sermon, we talked about the significance of "cup language" in the narrative of Good Friday. We learned that Jesus failed to close His seder meal as would have been expected by not drinking the fourth cup of wine – the cup of completion, prayed that this cup might pass from His lips, and that a drink of sour wine immediately preceded His death.

1. As you think about the "cup language" found in the narrative of Good Friday, what significance does this lend your understanding of the events of that day?
2. As Jesus drank deeply of the cup of completion in the form of a sour wine soaked sponge, God's kingdom was ushered into being. "It is finished" was not a cry of defeat, but an acknowledgement of Christ's complete obedience and a declaration of improbable victory. What significance might you see in Christ's victory being realized on the cross and not in the empty tomb?