

**Continuing in the Word, "The Road to the Resurrection:
The Garden of Gethsemane," Matthew 26:36-46/John 18:1-12**

http://www.wishkahchurch.org/audio_sermons/audio_sermons.htm

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus comes under the utter horror of bearing sin. Because of His absolute sinlessness the thought being made sin (2 Corinthians 5:21) is nearly overwhelming to Him. Jesus Christ hates sin! He detests it with a holy hatred that only pure righteousness could know. The Garden of Gethsemane is not the first time we've seen Jesus' contempt for sin.

Remember Jesus in the temple when He saw them using worship as a means of financial gain? *"When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up" (John 2:15-17).* Why was He so passionate about this? He hates sin.

Then there was Jesus rebuking the scribes and Pharisees in the harshest of terms. "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!...Fools and blind!...Serpents, brood of vipers!" (Matthew 23:15, 19, 33). Why this holy anger and condemnation of the scribes and Pharisees? He hates sin.

We too are to hate sin. We are to reckon ourselves dead to sin and not let sin reign in our mortal bodies (Romans 6:12,13). Yet what does our flesh crave? Sin. *"For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish"* (Galatians 5:17). Therefore we find even Paul saying, "...what I hate, that I do" (Romans 7:15). What a struggle we have before us with sin!

So how do we overcome it? First, we must be saved from sin by Jesus Christ (1 John 5:4, 5). We must be made new creations in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17). Then we need to develop an utter loathing of sin. The Holy Spirit is committed to working this in us. Romans 8:5-11 clearly shows this and is well worth spending time meditating on. The Holy Spirit is committed to this...are we?

Thomas a Kempis says this in regards to the contrition that a believer is to have, contrition being the feeling of deep sorrow or remorse for having sinned and done wrong: "Give yourself to contrition of heart, and you shall find devotion. Contrition lays open many good things, which distraction is wont quickly to destroy...Matter of just sorrow and inward contrition are our faults and sins, in which we lie so enwrapped that rarely have we the power to contemplate the things of heaven...Pray unto the Lord with all humility, that He will give you the spirit of contrition."

Hate sin in your past so as to hate sin today and the potential of sin in your future. Develop a holy hatred of sin!

Pastor Jim