

Shall I Not Drink the Cup the Father Gave Me?

John 18:1-14 (v. 11)

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I. Historical Background and Biblical Context

A. Historical Background

There is a peculiar “cup” assigned to those who believe in God and are committed to do His Will. With the “cup” that God assigns to those who believe in Him, there is a **Divine Purpose** attached to it. Abraham and Sarah had “a cup” assigned to them. **It was a difficult “cup” to drink from.** *However, with faith and obedience, they were able to drink it and fulfil the Divine Purpose attached to it.* God assigned a large “cup” to Moses to drink from. In that “cup” there was a great number of people he had to free from Egypt and shepherd them to the Promise Land. *The Israelites were not easy people to lead.* On the way, Moses had to also receive the Law of God and teach it to the people. *The Israelites were ungrateful, disobedient and stubborn people.* **It was an extremely difficult “cup” to carry and drink from!** *But, Moses was willing to drink from it! Moses completely submitted his will in obedience to The Father’s Will and did what was required of him faithfully! Moses understood God’s Divine Purpose was for the good of humanity! Therefore, he was willing to sacrifice his personal life for the wellbeing of humanity! Moses understood God’s Divine Purpose extended far beyond his generation into Eternity! Therefore, he was willing to carry out God’s Will in spite of the difficulties the Divine Purpose brought into his personal life!* Similarly, Joshua, Samuel, King David and the Prophets had to drink from “the cup” God assigned to each of them. *The common thread which links these exemplary servants of God is their willingness and obedience to drink from “the cup” the Lord assigned for each of them. Unfortunately, there were so many individuals and people in every generation who were not willing and obedient to accept and drink from the cups that God assigned to them!*

B. Biblical Context

God's Plan of Salvation continued to unfold generation after generation regardless of unfaithful and disobedient people! *God already knew that people would fail. **Therefore, God had factored in His Own Son to secure, fulfill and complete His Plan of Salvation!*** Hallelujah! It was prophesized in the Old Testament that Jesus will be **the Lamb of God**. God already *foretold* in Isaiah that a child will be given to us "... and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace, there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The Zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish it" (Isaiah 9:1-8). Amen!

II. The Lesson: Shall I Not Drink the Cup the Father Gave Me?

1. **vv. 1-3: Jesus Made it Easy for His Enemies to Find Him.**

John 18 begins in verse 1 saying, "When He had **finished praying**, Jesus left with His disciples and crossed the **Kidron Valley**. On the other side, there was an **olive grove**, and He and His disciples went into it." As the previous teachers marvelously taught us from John 17, *Jesus **prayed** for His disciples knowing His Time has come.* The "olive grove" which was across the "Kidron Valley," was part of **Mount Olive**, a place *frequented* by Jesus. In the past, we know that Jesus *extensively talked with His disciples* at **Mount Olive** regarding, for example, the End of Time (Math. 24 and 25). On many occasions, Jesus also brought His disciples to the "olive grove" *to spend intimate time and fellowship with them.* This *special place* is also identified in Scripture as **The Garden of Gethsemane** where **Jesus prayed in agony** because He *knew* it was the night that Judas will bring the Roman soldiers and the members of Priesthood (Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50). We

should note that several significant events took place before Jesus led His disciples to **The Garden of Gethsemane**:

- Jesus shared **His last Passover Meal** with His disciples including Judas;
- Jesus **sent away Judas** to do what he had already planned to do; i.e. to **betray Jesus** to the high priests for **30 silver coins**;
- Jesus **prayed** for the remaining disciples (John 17).

The night after the Last Supper, Judas brought the Roman soldiers and the Jewish officials including the Pharisees to the Garden of Gethsemane. ***Jesus went there to make it easy for His enemies to find Him. He knew His Time was up! Jesus was getting ready to drink from the Cup the Father assigned for Him! His enemies must be thinking that finally Jesus fell into their trap! However, all along, everything was happening according to God's Plan! They had no idea that they were digging their own graves from which there will be no escape!***

2. **vv. 4-9: Jesus Kept on Fulfilling His Purpose**

God's Divine Purpose was fulfilled in everything that Jesus said, taught, preached and did. There was a Divine Purpose *in the question* Jesus asked His enemies. Twice, Jesus asked them, "**Who is it you want?**" Twice, they answered, "**Jesus of Nazareth.**" Note: historically, even though Jesus was born in **Bethlehem**, near Jerusalem in Judea, He grew up in **Nazareth**, 90 miles to the North, near the **Sea of Galilee**. He spent most of His life in **Nazareth**. That is why they identified Him as "**Jesus of Nazareth.**" The Divine Purpose behind Jesus' question is **threefold**:

a) **Identity matters.**

To *ensure* that they were arresting "**Jesus of Nazareth**" and *nobody else*. Jesus asked them *twice* so that they declare **His Identity** in the hearing of the "Roman soldiers and the Jewish officials." *When word gets out, people will know who exactly they arrested.* His arrest and subsequent events also **fulfill** Old Testament prophecies.

b) They felt His Supernatural Power.

When Jesus stepped out, asked them who it is that they want, they answered “Jesus of Nazareth.” When He affirmed **His Identity** saying, “**I am He**,” the Bible says, “**they drew back and fell to the ground.**” *This is to show that they didn’t have power over Him. He surrendered to them because He had to fulfill His Father’s wishes. It was all according to God’s Plan and Purpose! Not that they knew what they were doing! No one except Jesus knew and fully understood **the eternal significance** of the moment! Neither the Romans nor the Jews knew or understood the **eternal significance of the moment!** While Jesus fully knew God’s Will at each moment, people were driven by their own will and knowledge darkened by their wickedness!*

c) That None of His Disciples will be Lost.

As indicated in verse 8 and 9, He asked them who it is that they came looking for *to ensure* that **only He** would be arrested and taken away. Also, Jesus fulfills Old Testament Prophecy in Jeremiah by sending Judah away: “They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on Him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded” (Matt. 27:1-10).

3. vv. 10-11. Shall I Not Drink the Cup the Father has Given Me?

Then Peter being true to form, “drew his sword and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear.” Even Peter who spent three years with Jesus didn’t understand the **eternal significance** of the moment. *He just acted in his flesh!* Don’t be too hard on Peter because we too don’t understand everything that God tells us! *Understandably, he felt he had to do something regardless of the consequences of his action!* I mean, Jesus had *repeatedly* told them that this day would come even as *recently as the day they shared the Passover Meal* in John chapters 14 and 16! *Jesus angrily commanded Peter to put his sword away!* That was not the time to draw sword!

a) ***It was time for Jesus to surrender to His Father's will!***

Only Jesus could handle what was required of Him in the moment! This was the **Time** God ordained for the **Past** and the **Present** *must collide to determine* the **Future!** That was the Moment in which **the Fate of Humanity** was hanging in the balance! That moment couldn't have been resolved by the sword! **It could only be resolved by surrendering to the Will of God.**

b) **“Shall I Not Drink the Cup the Father has Given Me?”**

Jesus rebuked Peter because he didn't know what he was doing. Also, Peter's time has not yet come. Peter's “cup” has not been assigned to him yet! The Moment was too big for Peter. Peter didn't have what it takes to handle the Moment! As a matter of fact, Peter would deny Jesus three times the same night that Jesus was betrayed!

- **It was a Cup God assigned only to Jesus!**
- **It was nobody else's Cup but that of the Lamb of God!**
- **The Moment called for Jesus to peacefully surrender Himself to wicked people!**

4. **vv. 12-14.** They **arrested** Jesus, **bound** Him and **brought** Him to Annas, the high priest that year. I don't want to explain these verses today except to mention the fact that none of these could have happened unless Jesus submitted to His Father's Will. And His Father's Will was for His Son to make a way for sinners to be redeemed by His Blood!

So **what** was **in** “the cup” God the Father assign to His Son to drink? In that Cup, God put:

- **The Agony** of completely *surrendering* to **wicked** people;
- **The Agony** of being *humiliated publicly* by wickedness for the world to see;
- **The Agony** of *being subjected* to ridicule, torture and crucifixion.

- **The Agony** of *absorbing the divine punishment on behalf of humanity* – taking upon Himself their cruelty, hatred, brutality, immorality, injustice, killing sprees, etc.
- **The Agony of death** – the manner in which Jesus must die.

III. Conclusion/Application

1. What is the **Father's Will** for your life as a Believer? Do you know for sure?
2. What is in your “cup” as a disciple of Christ? Do you know?
3. Are you **willing** and **ready** to drink from “the cup” God has **assigned to you**?
4. Will you **surrender your will** as Jesus did for the sake of others or will you pick up your “sword” like Peter did?
5. What are you doing as a disciple of Christ **to advance His Kingdom** on earth?