

## Surrender

Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane at the Mount of Olives. He had asked his followers to keep watch while he prayed. They had fallen asleep. He prayed to God that, if possible, this cup should pass from him. He knew the suffering he would have to endure; he saw the cross, he felt the humiliation and he showed his humanity. He had come to us as a human but was a son of God. He had done the miracles, and many had believed, but now the worst was coming. Can we feel his humanity and feel his sacrifice and see his love for God and for us? Twice in the garden he prays, Matthew 26:39 My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will,” and again in Matthew 26:42 “My Father if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done,” Jesus had surrendered to the will of his Father. How many of us have had to accept the will of God in our lives? How many times have we not had our prayers answered in the way we wanted? And finally in our surrender we have the assurance that God is with us and will not leave us alone. God has made us human but, in our humanity, we discover our arrogance. We become so used to fixing everything ourselves that we forget there is a higher power, a comforter, one who will walk with us in our sorrows and hardships. He doesn't always heal us or take away our pain, but he is there to carry us through it. Remember the story of the footprints in the sand. A man stood looking at his life in his footprints and he saw two sets of prints and God said that's where I walked with you and the man asked what about the lowest times of my life when there is only one set of footprints Lord? Why did you leave me alone. God replied, “You were not alone my child, that is where I carried you.”

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord, be with us in our trials and may we not forget you in our joys. We thank you for the days given us, for the good days we feel you near us and for the bad days when we feel you holding us up. Be with those who are suffering illness and loss in our midst. May we reach out to them and hold them in our hearts. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, and protect him. Be with his family Lord and bless them in all they do. Be with those in our church who work so diligently on our behalf and the life of the church, give them wisdom and foresight in all they do. May we practice kindness, generosity, and love in our daily lives. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

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