

HELEN SANDERS

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THE CUP OF SUFFERING

As we follow Jesus into the Garden of Gethsemane, we see him speaking to the Father. In Matthew 26 Jesus tells his disciples to watch and pray as he goes alone further. In Matthew 26:39 it says, ***“and he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, ‘O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.’”***

Jesus knew the cup that he was about to drink was the cup of dregs or the cup of death. The physical side of Jesus was repelled at this. This cup was not an easy cup to drink from and he asked Father to remove it if it were possible. Then, he surrendered his will to the plan that was laid out from the foundation of the world and submitted to that “cup.”

Earlier James and John asked that they sit on each side of him in His kingdom. He said in Mark 10:38, ***“But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? And be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”***

They replied with: (vs. 39) ***“And they said unto him, ‘We can.’ And Jesus said unto them, ‘Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal ye be baptized.’”***

They had no idea what he was talking about. They expected him to set up the kingdom then, not later.

Often, God has a cup for us also. It may be a cup that we resist because we think it was sent by Satan. God knows what it takes for us to become what he has planned for us. If we look at Joseph, we can learn a lot. He moved in prophetic dreams, but they were not for the “now.” Joseph learned through all the suffering he went through to trust God no matter what “cup” was given to him. Whether it was a cup that he drank in the pit, or the prison, he learned it. The refining that came through drinking the cup of suffering allowed Joseph to become elevated and save the known world at that time.

I have learned that the more that we want to do for God, the more resistance comes. We often fight it, but resistance builds spiritual muscles just like it does with natural muscles. God must remove any pride we have or glory that we may take for ourselves in order for him to get the glory. Through our cup of suffering, that we must drink to become perfected in Christ, we come to know what Jesus went through for us.

Do we like to drink from that cup? No, but like Jesus we often must surrender our will to his to become more like him and drink of the cup set before us.