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Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

Watch and Pray

September 2, 2009

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

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Mark 14:32-42

32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.

40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him.

41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest; it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

As we continue on looking in the book of Mark here; we are getting closer and closer to the cross. Keep in mind that the events that we are talking about tonight are happening on the night before He is going to die. We look at Jesus as dying on Friday, if we look at things correctly; these things are happening on Thursday night. They have already had their last supper. Now they are on their way and they get to Gethsemane. They have already left the Upper Room and they already took a short walk from where they were at inside the walls in the city of Jerusalem. They have now come outside and came down into a very beautiful garden. If you look at some things—I didn't really understand some things about that until I was looking at some things recently, but they weren't allowed to have gardens or what we call flower gardens inside the city of Jerusalem because of lack of space. Therefore the wealthy would go outside the walls of the city and they would have their gardens and things like that.

As you read about history, this place would have to be a very beautiful place. It was a place that Jesus spent a lot of time in with His disciples. This is where He gets to.

As you look at the word “**Gethsemane**” it means “**wine press.**” When you look at a wine press, a wine press is something that squeezes grapes. In others it was a place of **pressure**; a wine press is.

As Jesus gets to Gethsemane, He was under a tremendous amount of pressure. We don’t think about that much sometimes. We look at pictures sometimes and we see a little a trickle of blood running down His brow or something like, but what He was about to go through was a whole lot more than that. He was under tremendous pressure.

32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

Keep in mind that is just going to be a matter of hours that they are going to nail Him to a cross. It’s just going to be a few minutes that they are going to come and get Him. At the end of verse 43, they come and they get Him here in the garden. The pressure here was great.

What I want us to think about just a few moments on this verse is this. How that He seen the need, and how that He had a tremendous need to pray. The disciples are with Him. The eleven are with Him. He comes down into the garden—a beautiful place. However, could you imagine how heavy, burdened and the tremendous load that He was carrying. Do you know what He does? He brings the eleven with Him. He stops here, the Bible says:

32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

So do you know what He did not do? In this great hour of need He did not discuss all of His problems and all of His sorrows and everything; He didn’t discuss them with the disciples. Did He? No. He did not. He didn’t sit around and talk about how bad He had it and what He was just about to face. The tremendous load He was carrying. Do you know what He did do? He went to the Father in prayer. He went to someone that could help Him. He went to someone that could bear and help Him; give Him the strength to be able to bear what was about to take place there in His life.

That should be a lesson to you and me. Many times we want to tell everybody how bad that we have it. We want to tell everybody all of our problems, every ache, every pain that we have got and everything that we might think that we are facing; many times we don’t even go to God about it. There are many things that I can’t help you with. If you are hungry I might be able to give you a bologna sandwich or peanut butter sandwich or something. If you need a little gas for your car, we might be able to do that. Most problems that men have, men can’t take care of. It takes Almighty God to do that.

Since Jesus is going to go to the Father because of what He was facing then; that should tell you and me that when we are facing difficulties in life, [we should pray]. Don’t misunderstand. It’s great to have friends to talk to, it’s great to be able to talk to people and tell them our troubles, but it does not do any

good to talk to me about it if you are not talking to the Lord about it. It's good to talk to other people, if you are talking to the Lord. If you are not talking to the Lord, then you are just wasting your time.

He says something here.

32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

He saw the tremendous need that He had to pray. Folks in my life and in your life; reading our Bible is a wonderful thing. We need to read our Bibles every day. We need to read. We need to study. We need to be obedient to the Word of God. They all work together. When we read our Bible, we'll pray and when we pray we'll read our Bible. Do you know what a great stress reliever is? A great stress reliever is praying. If people would pray more they wouldn't flop around as much. If people would pray more and seek the face God in their lives there wouldn't be so mad all the time. They wouldn't be walking around with chips on their shoulder all the time. Praying is a great thing.

However, to get through the stress in life—and we all have it. In the day and the time that we are living in today there is a lot of stress. We face a lot of things. We need to pray. We need to seek the face of God for help to be able to face and overcome the problems as they come because it is going to happen.

He says here, "sit while I pray." Do you know what He knew? He knew what was coming. He knew what was about to take place just in a matter of hours of what was going to happen to Him; He understood that. But He also knew that He needed to pray. He was going to need strength. He was going to need help from Almighty God.

33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

If you read the other accounts, this is what He did. They come to the garden of Gethsemane. They get down there. He stops in a certain place with the eleven. He says, "You guys sit here while I go pray." The Bible says He takes Peter, James and John with Him and He goes a little bit farther into the garden and He stops here and He's going to go about a stone's throw away and He is going to pray here in just a minute.

33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

The words "sore amazed" means this. It means "to utter an extreme fright; to utter an extreme horror; to utter an extreme terror; to utter an extreme bewilderment; to utter an extreme amazement."

When you look at what is happening here to Jesus, I hope you understand the tremendous weight and tremendous pressure that was upon Him. He was carrying the sins of the whole world. He hadn't sinned. He hadn't done anything wrong. He was going to the cross carrying the sin of all mankind.

You think about the sin that you do and you have and think about the pressure it puts on you sometimes. Think about Him carrying the weight and the sin of the whole world. You see, friend, He was sore amazed. The Bible says here He was sore amazed. There was tremendous pressure being put upon Him. The Bible also says that He was sore amazed and be very heavy.

33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

The words “**very heavy**” means this in the Greek. It means “**to be troubled; to be distressed; to be extremely troubled; to be extremely distressed.**”

I hope that we understand what and how that He was feeling here. I hope you understand that He was doing all these things for you and for me. That’s the reason He is here. We understand that. I think sometimes we forget that. I think sometimes we thank God that we are saved. We thank God for our homes. We thank God for all these things and that’s great. We need to do that. But He went through a horrible time so that you and I could have the freedom that we have and that we could be blessed and have the right to go to heaven one day. He went through a horrible ordeal so that you and I could live forever. Do you know what we should do? We should praise Him for that. He’s worthy to be praised.

33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

He leaves the eight here and He takes Peter, James and John with Him. He goes a little bit farther. Now He is going to leave them and He is going to go about a stone’s throw farther, just a short ways from them and He is going to get down on His face before Almighty God.

34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

Did you ever think about what that means? When you read the other accounts of the gospel do you know what you will find out? You will find out that when He begins to pray over here the Bible says that His sweat became as great drops of blood. He was, again, under a tremendous pressure. He was under a tremendous load. When you look at the phrase “...My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death...” It tells us that the weight was so heavy that it was a life threatening event. There is no doubt that it was; to be carrying all the weight, all the stress, all the pressure, and all the sin of all mankind upon Him and to be doing what He was doing knowing what He was going to face.

If that wouldn’t scare you, nothing would.

I know He was God. He had blood running through His arteries and veins just like you and I do. He felt pain just like you and I feel pain. The Bible says His soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death...

34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

He is going to go a little bit farther. He was going to go and pray. But He says something else here. He says “to watch.” Do you know what the word “watch” means? It means “to be alert; to be alert as you pray; to be alert as you pray and keep your spiritual eyes open for the enemy is near.”

That is good advice for you and me. We need to be watching. We need to be alert today. There is an enemy out there that is trying to destroy you and me. He is trying to lead us astray. He is trying to trip us up. He is trying to do something to get you and me to quit following Jesus Christ. He will do it one day at a time. He doesn't do it in a big flowery way. But he's very cunning, crafty, and sneaky and he will try to lead you astray a little bit each day. He is not going to just come up, because he knows he can't do that anyway, but he will come a little bit each day to try to lead you away from following Almighty God. Jesus says here, “Fellows, you need to be alert. You need to be praying. You need to keep your spiritual eyes open because the enemy is very near.

Don't ever think that you get up the spiritual ladder far enough that enemy won't come along and tempt you. It will never happen as long as you live on planet earth because there is an enemy out there that is trying to destroy you and me. He will do whatever he can to get us.

The instruction was “**watch and pray.**” That is what we need to be doing. As Jesus gave them instruction to be watching and praying because He knew what was coming. He knew that as He is praying, no doubt, that Judas was already on the way here. Jesus knew that. Do you know what else He knows today? He knows what is coming in my life and in your life today. He knows what is going to come tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. Many times in life we want to wait until we get into a catastrophe or some kind of crisis before we go to Him in prayer. People do that. However, we shouldn't. We should seek His face every day. We should be alert and keep our eyes on Him every day.

35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

Now look what He is doing here. The Bible says that He goes a little bit farther. The other accounts tell us that He goes about a stone's throw away from them. He is going here seeking the help of Almighty God and seeking the strength of Almighty God.

How many times in your life when you will pray when issues are in your life. The problems get so heavy that you just can't seem to carry them. You don't know where turn. You don't know what to do. You are just wringing your hands. You are just in a mess. Your whole life is in a mess. How many times when we will just stop and take our needs or our requests unto the Lord; how many times can we get our faces off the ground and feel like there has been a million pounds lifted off of us? That happens. The Lord will help us in those ways if we will just seek Him.

I can't make it on my own and you can't either. I can't face all of life's problems and to be able to overcome all of life's problems and to have a victorious Christian life on planet earth on my own. I cannot do it and you cannot either. We need a stress relief.

A hot water tank has a pop off valve on it. If something malfunctions and your water continues to heat and heat, if your thermostat messes up, and it doesn't shut the power off or whatever; your water gets too hot there is a big valve on your hot water tank. Do you know what it will do? When it gets so hot, it will relieve the pressure.

Jesus Christ is a great stress reliever. He is there. He will do that for you and me. He will give us the strength that we need to be able to face whatever we are about to face. That is what Jesus is doing here. Him praying and seeking the face of His Father; He is praying here because He knows what is coming. He knows the events that is about to take place. He knows He needs help.

You may not think you need help today. You may not think you are going to need any help tomorrow. You might think that you have it all worked out and you can do it all yourself. However, there will be a day come, if you feel that way; you will find out that you can't make it on your own. You can't do it all on your own. You will find that out. It won't be a good thing when you find that out. But it is a good lesson to learn that we cannot do it on our own.

35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

He falls on His face before Almighty God and He says, "...if it were possible, the hour might pass from him." Do you know what He is doing here? He is seeking the face of His Father. He knows that God the Father is all powerful and can do all kinds of things. Jesus is not asking that mankind not be saved. He is not asking for a plan of Salvation not to be given. He is not asking that. He is asking, "Father, if it is possible, if there is another way for humanity to be saved, if there is any other way for humanity to be saved other than what I am about to go through then let it be." He also says this, "...not what I will, but what thou wilt."

Jesus is not trying to shake His responsibility. But He is saying, "Father, if there is any other way for mankind to be able to have Salvation other than what is about to take place, then Father do that. If there is no other way then thy will be done."

I say glory to His name! Praise His name that He knows—God the Father—knows what He is doing tonight. He knows what He is doing. He could have fixed many different ways before the world was ever into existence, I suppose, for people to be saved. However, He proved to mankind how much that He really loves us because He demanded the death of His Son. A Father demanding the death of His Son for you and I to be saved; that shows how much He loves you and me. If He was giving away somebody else's son, animals, or whatever; that would be one thing. However, God demanded the death of His own Son. There was no other way in the plan of Almighty God. There was no other avenue that man could receive Salvation other than through and by the death of His Son. That's the only way. Jesus understood that. But He is praying for help. He is praying for strength. He is asking the Father here.

Look what happens here.

36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Do you know what “Abba” means? It means “Pa.” It’s a relationship that Jesus had with His Father. Another word in the Greek was “Daddy.” It showed the close relationship that Jesus had with His Father.

36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

He was not saying that I am not going to do this; but He is saying, “If there is any other way for You to accomplish Salvation, accomplish redemption, to give mankind eternal life except me dying then let it be so.” However, He says, “Nevertheless, if there is no other way then thy will be done.”

That is a lesson that we need to learn in life too. God’s got a will for our lives. He has a will for all of us to go to heaven. It is not His will that any of us should perish, but God has a will. God has a specific will, a plan for your life. Sometimes we don’t like it. Sometimes we don’t like where God puts us. Sometimes we don’t like what God asks us to do.

I get calls from time to time from people who are complaining about what God’s asking them to do, or what God hasn’t asked them to do. Many times that is probably the most common call. Many people want to do things but God hasn’t called them to do that. We need to understand that God has a plan for your life and God has a will for your life. It is a good plan. It is something that will be great for you if you will just live right and do right. Say, “Lord, not what I will but what’s your will for my life?” When we get saved, we should surrender our will unto Him anyway. We should walk everyday as He wants us to walk. We should walk in His will. Forget about our desires and forget about our will. We should say, “Lord, here I am. What do you want me to do today, Lord? Take control of me today, Father. Lead me. Put me where you want me at.” If we will do that, you will see some great things that God will do for you. You may not like some of them, but God will use you in a great way if you will just let Him.

We have too many problems with “what I want,” “what my will is,” “what I want to do.” Most generally what man wants to do is corrupt anyway. Most of the time it won’t work. Most of the time, you will just create a racket. However, when we follow the will of God then it will bring glory to Him. That’s what we need to be doing.

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldst not thou watch one hour?

Look what He calls Peter. He didn’t call him Peter. He calls him Simon.

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldst not thou watch one hour?

Now there is something in that I want you to see. If you remember in Caesarea Philippi when Jesus had asked the disciples “Who do men say thou the Son of man am?” They said, “Some say thou art John the

Baptist. Some say thou art Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” Do you remember that? Then He asked them, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” He told Peter, “Thou Peter, upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” He changed his name from Simon to Peter. Do you know what happened? Peter—and we do this a lot—had just a couple of hours before said, “Lord, everyone else may forsake you. Everyone else may run off and leave you. They may do all that, but Lord, not me. I’ll never do that, Lord. The rest of the gang may run off and leave you. They may forsake you. They may do all that, but not me. I’ll go all the way with you. They put me in jail. They may kill me, but I am going to go with you.”

Here is the thought.

These disciples, the little they saw of what was just about to take place. How could you be asleep if you knew and if there was any concern about your Master, your Savior, your Messiah; how could you be asleep? How could you be around Him and see the pressure and the stress and the load that He was carrying. It would have been visible on His face and how He prayed and what He was doing. It would have been visible. He was sore amazed. He was very heavy. The load was very heavy. However, here these guys are—He goes. He prays. He comes back. He’s told them to watch and pray, to be alert, stay alert, and to pray. Now they are asleep. He uses the word “Simon.” Simon is not the rock anymore. Is he? Jesus called him Peter. “Upon this rock, I will build my church.”

Do you know what happens a lot of times in our lives? We go backwards instead of forwards.

The flesh took over here on Peter. That is really what it is telling us here. The fleshly side, the old adamic nature that we have over road what Peter knew about the Messiah? Do you know what he was doing? He is just sleeping. He wasn’t paying any attention to all the suffering, sorrow, weight and grief that Jesus Christ was going through. He wasn’t paying a bit of attention to it. All they were concerned with was taking a nap.

How many times in my life and in your life, if we would just open our eyes to:

- people who sit beside of us in the church
- in the pew, that we shake hands with
- we sing beside of in the choir
- we see in the grocery store
- we see on the job

If we would just open our spiritual eyes, we could see a lot of folks that needed our help. We could see a lot of folks that needed companionship.

Do you know what Jesus needed? He needed somebody to pray with Him; pray for Him. That’s what He has told them to do. However, instead of them watching and praying, they were taking a nap.

There is a tremendous message in that for you and me. We go to sleep spiritually many times. We may have our eyes wide open, but we don’t pay attention to anything, any sorrow, any pressure about anybody because we are asleep, in a daze, and we are just in a fog. We are going through the motions.

I'm not saying we don't come to church. I'm not saying you don't love people. I'm not saying that at all. But I am saying that many times we get so asleep in our own little world that we don't see the needs and the pressure that other people carry. If we do anything, if we can be a help to anyone; when people needs our help is when they are going through or about to face some tremendous catastrophe in their life. Sometimes we don't care. Sometimes I think we know. However, sometimes I think that our own personal desires, lusts for whatever over rides or takes precedent over the needs of other people.

If Jesus would have taken that route, most of us would be in a lake of fire tonight. If He would have took that route and said "Hey, what's the use."

We say that a lot. "What's the use? I've got more problems than they have. They didn't come see me when I was sick." We say that. We take that approach. The sad part about that many times is that we don't even see it. We don't pay any attention to it. Do you know what the great thing about praying is and the great thing about living in the will of God? When people, I am living in the will of God, living as I need to be living, you are living as you need to be living; it is amazing what God will reveal unto us while we pray. It is amazing how that God will put different people upon our hearts and minds as we pray. God knows what you are going through.

I get calls sometimes, or somebody will send me a little card and won't sign it; they won't have enough backbone to sign it. They will send me a little card and wear me out about something. If you are going to send me a card, be man enough to sign it. We get all huffy and puffy and mad about something sometimes "You didn't do this. You didn't do that." There is times that I don't know that people are sick. There is times that when we want sympathy when we don't really need sympathy. Think about that one for a while. There are times that we don't need pity. It gets quiet when you talk about that doesn't it? There are times that we don't need people to tell us how bad that we have it. There are times that we just need understand some things and God will teach us some things if we will just wake up out of the fog that we are in. Don't misunderstand. There are times that people need pity. There are times that people need compassion. There are times that people needs us to right there hand in hand with them. I mean this sincerely. I'm not trying to be a smart alleck. However, I have never known anybody dying of a hangnail. I have never known anybody dying because they had a cold. I have never known anyone dying because of things that we think that someone should be standing there holding my hand or holding someone's hand. We do that. People can be dying all around us and the first time that we sneeze we think that the preacher ought to be here. No Amen's on that one was there! That's true in a lot of cases.

Jesus wanted people to pray. He wanted His disciples to pray. He wanted these disciples to be praying for Him and to be watching. The Bible says here...

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldst not thou watch one hour?

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

That is basically what I already said tonight. The flesh got the best of Peter. He would rather be taking a nap than he would be praying. Even though his master was carrying a tremendous load, with tremendous pressure they were asleep.

39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.

40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him.

41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest; it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

The third time He comes back; He goes away and prays and He comes back. He said, "Fellows, sleep on now. No use to pray. Just go ahead and sleep." Do you know why He did that? For many years I don't guess I ever really understood why He said that. Do you know why He said that? He said that because He got the relief and the strength that He needed. He is getting ready now to go to the cross. He had been praying to His Father. He prays these three times. The three times He gets His answer. The strength that He needs comes. He knows now that there is no other way. He knows now that He is going to die. He knows now that there is no other way around this thing, but that He is going to die.

41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest; it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

"...it is enough..."

42 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

I mean this. So many times we pray one time and we just forget about it. That's good that we can do that. However, if I am praying about something and I don't get an answer; I continue praying about it. Don't you? If I am praying about something and I don't feel that God has given me peace about it, or has answered that prayer; I continue to pray about it. I've prayed for people about different situations for many years. I knew or felt way back early that God was going to do some great things; the prayer hadn't been answered so I continued to pray. Didn't you?

Here Jesus gets the answer that He needs. He gets the strength that He needs. He knows that the hour has come. He knows that He is going to die. He says here, "Let's be going. Let's get out of here."

41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest; it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

Do you know what Jesus knew? Jesus knew that His hour had come. Jesus knew that His hour had come that He was going to die. He was going to have to die. He also knew that Judas was just a short ways away. He knew that Judas was just a short ways away. He also knew that the multitude of soldiers with their swords, staves, torches and lanterns; He also knew that they were with him. He knew that it

was just going to be a matter of moments now that they were going to come and get Him. They were going to start mistreating Him, beating Him, slapping Him. They took Him to Annas and Caiaphas and shipped Him around inside the city that night. He also knew the next morning that they were going to nail Him to a cross. He knew now that all this was going to happen. He also got the relief, the strength that He needed that He was going to have face what He was going to have to face.

God will supply. Not only will God give us grace to live by, but God will give us the grace to die by. Whatever we are facing in life...

I've talked to people quite often, "Preacher, how can you do that? How can you be ready to die?" I've never been there. I've been in places before that I've prayed to die. I've asked God to let me die. I've done that and He did not do that. I thank God today that He didn't. The day that I was praying it, I wish could have died.

It is amazing that when you get there to know that you are in His hands, to know that He is going to bear you across this thing called death. You are never going to die. That's good to know.

I've been in rooms before, where Saints of God were dying. When they took their last breath, I've been in some awesome places where it felt like and there is no doubt in my mind that if the Lord would have let me see; there were angels everywhere in that room. I know that tonight. I know that tonight. The presence of God in some of these dear old saints rooms, like I've never ever experienced anywhere else in my Christian life, but I've experienced in a room some old dying saints were leaving this world.

Do you know why? It is because God was bearing them over to the other side. He will do that for you if you will just live for Him and allow Him to be the Lord of your life.