

Gethsemane

Introduction

- Some people have a positive self-image:
 - are secure, feel capable...
 - will "ride" set-backs...
- Some people have a negative self-image:
 - often feel failures, not quite up to what life is throwing at them...
- But, whoever we are, there will be times in our lives when **we know what it is to fail**
 - to be reduced to tears of frustration and anger at what we've done, the mess we've got ourselves into...

A Story of Failure (vs.27-34, 37-42)

- Worst of human failure
 - deserting, letting down their friend at his lowest point
 - of rash pride that we know comes before a fall
 - of the failure to support Jesus in what was clearly a critical hour; the disciples had been with him through all the build up through Mark's gospel; they would know this was the pinnacle...
 - of Judas' desperate betrayal!
- **We too are utter failures**
 - we stand with Peter and the other disciples here
 - we have let people down
 - we have said we will do things, and then not
 - we have not taken responsibility for our actions

A Story of Failure Fixed (vs.35-36)

- Solution to that failure, that falling short of all we were made to be:
 - here we have **Jesus**, revealed through Mark's Gospel as **Son of God, as Messiah, with power and authority, the ability to heal, marked by righteousness**
 - and it is that Jesus who is talking about **taking a cup**
 - he is speaking of his death - cup was a reference to cup of God's **wrath/judgement; for instance...**
 - *"Awake, awake! Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes men stagger." (Isaiah 51:17)*
- His pain was not the mere pain of human betrayal, the anticipation of agony, but the first signs of the separation from his father
 - impending separation is dreadful!
 - as he came **"up close"** to being ripped from his Father, so the reality of that pain struck home!
- Submission to his Father's will - demonstrably righteous!
 - Abba was a familiar term, though would have previously have been avoided of God in prayer (cf "thou")

Conclusion

- Broken people find wholeness in a broken saviour!
 - the disciples couldn't yet see it - we see their brokenness, because we know what happens next!
 - but they hadn't yet experienced the brokenness of deserting Jesus, nor had they yet seen him die
- **Will we, broken, come to the one who drank the cup of wrath for us?**