

SCARS & SHATTERED DREAMS

(Mark 14:32-38)

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³*He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.* ³⁴*“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”* ³⁵*Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible, the hour might pass from him.* ³⁶*“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”* ³⁷*Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”* (Mark 14:32-38)

In Gethsemane, Jesus experienced a flood of emotions...

- *He began to be deeply distressed and troubled (33)* = Visceral pain and anguish
- *My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death (34)* = Suffocating grief
- *He fell...and prayed that if possible, the hour might pass from him (35)* = God’s silence; no relief
- *He returned to his disciples and found them sleeping (37)* = Enduring it alone

So, He warns us, *watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation (38) because...*

When dreams shatter, our greatest temptation may be to lose hope

- *deeply distressed and troubled (33)* = Our own visceral pain and anguish
- *soul is overwhelmed with sorrow (34)* = Our own suffocating grief
- *prayed that if possible, the hour might pass from him (35)* = God’s silence to us; no relief
- *found them sleeping (37)* = Feeling no one can help as we endure it alone

QUOTES OF NOTE

Larry Crabb, *Shattered Dreams*

We have our own ideas about what a good God should do in the middle of our circumstances, ideas that stretch all the way from opening a space in a crowded parking lot near the mall's entrance to funding our ministry dreams to straightening out our kids to giving us a negative biopsy report. It's those ideas that get in the way of our realizing what goodness really is. Like children, we believe a loving parent would give us ice cream without first making us eat spinach. Goodness is ice cream. It certainly isn't spinach. (1-2)

Pain is a tragedy. But it's never only a tragedy. For the Christian, it's always a necessary mile on the long journey to joy. The suffering caused by shattered dreams must not be thought of as something to relieve if we can or endure if we must. It's an opportunity to be embraced, a chance to discover our desire for the highest blessing God wants to give us, an encounter with Himself. (4)

Shattered dreams open the door to better dreams, dreams that we do not properly value until the dreams that we improperly value are destroyed. Shattered dreams destroy false expectations, such as the "victorious" Christian life with no real struggle or failure. They help us discover true hope. We need the help of shattered dreams to put us in touch with what we most long for, to create a felt appetite for better dreams. And living for the better dreams generates a new, unfamiliar feeling that we eventually recognize as joy. (35)

Live long enough and important dreams will shatter. Things will go wrong that God will not fix. He could fix them, but He doesn't. (98)

Life is not an opportunity for things to go well so we can feel good. Life is an opportunity for us to be forgiven for requiring God to make us feel good and for turning from Him when He doesn't. And life is an opportunity to live through shattered dreams and discover that we really long to abandon ourselves to the Perfect Love of God, the love revealed when Jesus died. It is an opportunity to trust Him with our experience of emptiness and fear, to trust Him to forgive our resentment over bad things that happen and our determination to feel good with or without Him. (145)