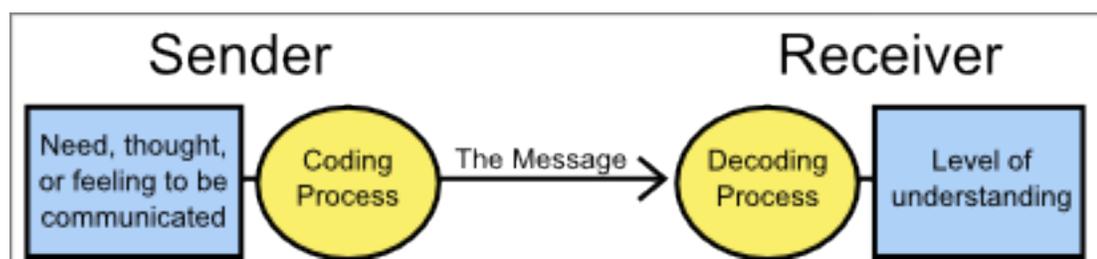


To Commune With God; Matthew 26:36-46

- To Commune
 - Matthew 26:36; Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."
 - "Commune" To communicate with someone or something in a very personal or spiritual way
 - "Communion" - intimate fellowship, sharing
 - "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."
 - Jesus, knowing that his arrest is a short hour away chooses this time to "commune" with God; to enter into intimate fellowship; to share with God
 - When we pray, we commune with God, we enter into intimate fellowship, we share
 - This can seem to be a very daunting task and is maybe why we lack in our prayer life
 - To communicate and have an intimate conversation with the Creator of the universe can seem overwhelming
 - In His Sorrow Jesus communes with God
- Sorrow
 - Matthew 26:37–39; 37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."
 - Sorrowful in verse 37 means to be distressed or sad
 - Sorrowful in verse 38 means to be crushed by grief, surrounded by sadness
 - Jesus knows what's coming
 - He knows about the "trial"
 - He knows about the crown of thorns
 - He knows about the mocking
 - He knows about the flogging
 - He knows about the crucifixion
 - The next (last) 12 hours of his human life are going to be filled with agonizing pain, emotional suffering, and betrayal
 - To understand the depth of His sorrow is near impossible
 - Luke 22:43; And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.
 - Luke 22:44; And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
 - Man of Sorrows is an apt title for the hymn
 - Yet, in the midst of all this knowledge, with this crushing sorrow surrounding him, He communes with God
 - Jesus finds His strength in His Father
 - Mark 14:36; And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."
 - I don't know if any of us will ever, or have ever experienced this kind of sorrow, but I know where we will find our strength
 - We find it in communing with our God
 - But communication has some inherent problems built into it
 - The psychology of communicating



- We are stuck in a world of political correctness
- Due to the shame, negativity, humiliation, dissent, polarity, adversity, hatred, and animosity associated with their name, the Washington Redskins will now simply be called... The Redskins
- The good news is that those issues are not present with God
- Romans 8:26–27; 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
- Our first choice in the midst of sorrow should be to fall on our knees to the Father!
- Temptation
 - Matthew 26:40–44; 40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” 43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.
 - Temptation - to tempt or try with the goal of destruction
 - What is Jesus referring to? (He is only addressing the three)
 - Sleeping instead of praying?
 - Luke 22:45; And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow,
 - Their upcoming desertion of Jesus?
 - John 17:12; While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
 - Peter’s upcoming denial?
 - Luke 22:31–34; 31 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” 33 Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” 34 Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow **this day**, until you deny three times that you know me.”
 - Jesus gives this warning to Peter the very day of his denial
 - The battle that Peter almost starts?
 - John 18:10–11; 10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) 11 So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”
 - Jesus rebukes Peter right after Peter makes the great confession
 - Mark 8:31–33; 31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”
 - It would seem to me the “temptation” would refer to following man’s will and not Gods
 - Jesus’ rebuke of Peter (remember, this is why Jesus came... to offer himself as a sacrifice for us)

- “let this cup pass from me”
- Peter trying to stop Jesus’ arrest
- This idea also fits the definition of the word, temptation (destruction), for without His sacrifice we would all pay the price for sin (our destruction)
- Jesus’ communion with His Father took that temptation away
 - After each prayer in the Garden Jesus acknowledged that His Father’s will was to followed, even if it meant “drinking the cup”
 - Jesus knew that the crucifixion was the only way to enact His Father’s will
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13; No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
 - Hebrews 2:14–18; 14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.
 - Hebrews 4:15–16; 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- Prayer
 - Prayer is our (not politically correct) communication with God
 - We turn to Him in sorrow
 - We turn to Him in temptation