

THE HOW WHAT AND WHY OF THE “CUP”

ΠΑΡΕΡΧΟΜΑΙ (let this cup pass) 26.24

The chapter encompasses “the alabaster box of spikenard” story; the “supper institution” story, the triple “Gethsemane prayer & vow”, the story of the “armed soldiers and betrayer” who apprehend the Master, the “testimony to Caiaphas” and “Peter’s denial at cockcrow”. In verses 2, 12, 15, 24, 28, 31,32 we have seven testimonies to Jesus’ death and in v.53 a reference to the possibility of 1200 angels to prevent the cross. ***Christ distinctly said the Father valued Him so highly He would stop the process at His call.*** What he did not do is make that call. He made three pleas in verses 39, 42 & 44. The first may include any of the following sentiments but not “Let it not be done” the necessity was fundamental. –the *ως* or manner –the **How** is vital. **[1]** (1) Let it (the cup) go by...like a ship going into the distance-with ***joy and hope of arrival*** in glory! Let it go by...a ***speeded up*** event. Let it go by...***let it be disregarded (by You)*** for their sake. Let it go by...let the danger melt away like a cloud ***at this time***. Let it go by...***with just a few words*** I want to speak (after a kindred expression in Aristotle) **[2]** “If or when this cup cannot pass from me If I do not drink it, let Your will be done!” This is not the “**How** of the cup but the sheer necessity of it which Christ recognized-the **What** must be. No-one else was worthy and no other time was prophetically possible. No re-scheduling could occur. The third **[3]** request like the second found the disciples asleep. Without the cup the sleep of death for sin would have encompassed all mankind. The “weakness of the flesh” –the **Why** which Christ understood so very well and to some extent experienced so acutely in Gethsemane helped Him to pursue the task as did the strengthening angel that spoke of the Father’s love and the 12 legions. He had been praying for the strength of Peter’s faith and looking forward to the “New Man that the cross and Pentecost would make possible.