

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

## MAY 26, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

### *Mark 14:33-36*

“He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. And He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.” And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. And He was saying, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.”



Mark’s record of the Gethsemane scene is the darkest of the four gospels. Matthew’s account describes Jesus’ grief as simply grieving while Luke omits all references to Jesus’ grief entirely. The lack of description in the other gospels has caused many to wonder why Mark includes this description of anguish and wrongly conclude that Jesus suffered from a eleventh hour crisis of nerve. How can Jesus challenge James and John to drink His cup when He now seemly shrinks from it Himself?

If we attempt to discount the strong emotions of Mark’s description then we fail to see that Jesus has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Many explanations have been suggested to explain His trembling and tears. Did He know the sins of the world were to be laid upon Him? Maybe it was from contemplating dying by a cursed method of hanging from a tree? Others suggest it was being abandoned by His closest friends when the disciples lose faith and scatter leaving Him alone.

Jesus’ mental torment during the waiting in the garden was yet another temptation He had to face. The suffering Jesus experienced at the beatings and floggings were a physical ordeal. But it is the anxiety of waiting that can make one fall to pieces. Jesus knew infinitely more about the holiness and righteousness of God and what would be required to pay for the sins of the world. Jesus was not worrying about the future as we do. He is not exaggerating possibilities. He knew precisely what the future held. What He anguishes over is exactly what He will experience and knew He must call upon His Father and to entrust Himself to His will.

So what do we get from Mark’s gospel which is not included in the other gospels accounts of the long night of Gethsemane? Mark allows us to see Jesus following His own teaching to the disciples – praying and drawing closer to His Father. Hearing Jesus pray at this moment of great crisis is the example He wants each of us to follow. Satan battles for every human heart and we are hardwired by sin to try to save our own lives. The disciples are no example to us as they flee in the night when Judas changes sides and Peter denies Him publicly. Jesus, our Great High Priest, resolves the anguish by coming to His Father in prayer and obediently submitting to the will of the God.

*Sunrise Community Church*  
*Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst*  
**EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.**

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Fanny Crosby

## Hymn of the Week Near the Cross

Words: Fanny Crosby, in *Bright Jewels*, by William B. Bradbury

Music: W. Howard Doane

Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
There a precious fountain  
Free to all, a healing stream  
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

### Refrain

In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
Love and mercy found me;  
There the bright and morning star  
Sheds its beams around me.

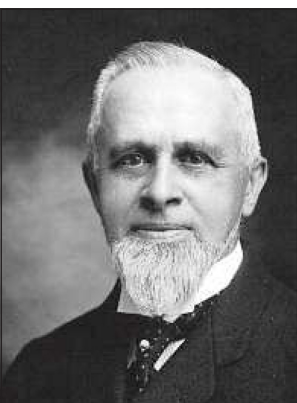
### Refrain

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
Bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day,  
With its shadows o'er me.

### Refrain

Near the cross I'll watch and wait  
Hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand,  
Just beyond the river.

### Refrain



W. Howard Doane

# SEE YOU SUNDAY AT SUNRISE

## June 2013

May 26	8:45 a.m.	Mark 14:33-36 <i>Pastor Andy teaching</i>
May 27		Memorial Day
May 28	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Ephesians
May 31		5th Friday Night – Church is Dark
June 2	8:45 a.m.	Mark 14:43-52 “ <i>Jesus Arrested, Followers Barely Escape</i> ”
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
June 4	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Ephesians
June 7	7:00 p.m.	Game Night
June 9	8:45 a.m.	TBD
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
June 11	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Ephesians
June 14	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
June 16	8:45 a.m.	Father's Day No Sunday School- Celebrate Dad!
June 18	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Ephesians
June 21	7:00 p.m.	Game Night

JUNE 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30					



## Lashings, imprisonment for converting coworker in Saudi Arabia

A SPECIAL REPORT BY ICC

05/24/2013 Washington D.C. (International Christian Concern) - The sentencing of a Lebanese Christian to lashings and imprisonment for converting a Saudi coworker puts the spotlight on the laws of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its firm resistance to reason or political persuasion.

On May 12, a Lebanese man was sentenced to 300 lashings with a whip and six years in prison, for his part in encouraging a Saudi Muslim to convert to Christianity and his subsequent role in helping her flee to Sweden to secure religious asylum. A Saudi man, who was also involved in the conversion and escape, was sentenced to 200 lashings and two years in prison. The woman was an employee of an insurance company in the eastern district of Khobar, and the two men were her colleagues. In July 2012, the two men were arrested on charges of forcible conversion following charges laid against them by the girl's father, who says that the Lebanese man had "shaken her convictions" and inspired misconceptions about Islam.

According to the local Bureau of Investigation and Prosecution (BIP), the story dates back to when the young woman struck up a

friendship with her Saudi colleague and then the Lebanese man. The three would meet up from time to time, the girl fell in love with the young Lebanese who gave her books and invited her to follow a religious chat room. Subsequently, she converted to Christ and fled to Lebanon.

Without any political leverage and the constant dependency on the region for its oil resources, the international community seems unwilling and unable to confront the monarchy about its poor record of religious freedom, even as Christians in Saudi Arabia continue to be trapped in a specter of control through fear and intimidation.

Her father claimed that she even left the country illegally. Under Saudi law, in fact, a woman cannot have a passport without the permission of her "guardian" i.e. father, husband or brother. They claimed that the two men helped her leave the country via Bahrain, using false documents.

Her identity has not been disclosed, although she is now known as "the girl of Khobar." After fleeing Saudi Arabia, she was granted refuge in Sweden where she lives under the protection of unspecified NGOs, according to local press reports in Saudi Arabia.

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