



Father, Let This Cup Pass From Me

*“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” Psalm 23:5 (NIV)*

Number 25 in the series “The Lord is My Shepherd”

This portion of scripture speaks of our cup overflowing with the goodness and blessings of the Lord. Psalm 116:12-13 (NIV) reads, *“How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.”* There is no sweeter cup to drink than the cup of salvation. It is a free gift. We can never repay the Lord for all His goodness toward us.

Jesus drank a sweet cup and a bitter cup. It was sweet to heal the sick, open blind eyes, cause the lame to walk, raise the dead, feed the hungry, cleanse the leper, and defeat Satan. All of this was a sweet cup to drink. The bitter cup that Jesus drank was constant rejection; being mocked; hatred from the religious leaders; constant tests, trials, and temptations; betrayal by one of His disciples; being denied by another; desertion by all His disciples in His greatest time of need; and being beaten and crucified.

Jesus chose to drink both cups—the sweet and the bitter. Beloved believer, in our lifetime, each of us will have two cups to drink. The first is the sweet cup of the free gift of salvation and the countless blessings and provision that Jesus gives us daily. We are happy to drink this cup.

However, are we willing to drink the cup of pain, sorrow, tests, trials, and suffering that comes into every life, or do we spit it out, refusing to drink it? Our cup of suffering may be a job loss; bad health; a rebellious child; an unsaved mate; a child or mate addicted to drugs, alcohol, or pornography; an unfaithful mate; a divorce; the

pain of singlehood; the death of a loved one; a miscarriage; infertility; or countless other situations. These cups are no one’s choice. We want to cry out, “Father, let this cup pass from me!”

Beloved, Father God understands this. In Matthew 26:36-46 (NIV), while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane before He was betrayed and crucified on the cross, three times Jesus prayed, *“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”* In the midst of suffering, it is not wrong to pray, asking Father God if it is possible to remove our cup of sorrow. I have done that several times in my Christian walk. However, are we willing to trust God who knows His plans and purposes for our lives and also pray as Jesus did, “Yet not as I will, but as You will”?

There have been times in my life when God removed the bitter cup, and there have been times He did not. Whenever it was His will for me to drink the cup of suffering, He always gave me His amazing grace to help me. Think on this: If Christ had refused to drink His cup of suffering, we would all be lost sinners going to hell without a Savior. I am grateful to Him for drinking the cup that He had been given by the Father.

— *Janice McBride*

Preparing Christ’s Bride Ministries

1941 Croftdale Drive, Florissant, MO 63031 • janice@janicemcbride.com

Preparing Christ’s Bride Ministries is an international ministry. Janice is from Scotland and lives in St. Louis, Missouri with her husband, Richard. They minister at retreats, churches, military bases and prisons, helping people to glorify Jesus through obedience to His Word.