

IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS
Luke 22:41-44

I. An Unprecedented Agony.

- a. Greater than the wilderness temptation. There he was tempted to distrust God by working miracles for Himself. There He was tempted to take a short cut to the throne and avoid suffering.
- b. It was greater than the trial of rejection by the people. Here it was separation from the Father and not the people.
- c. It was an agony involving a strain of distinction of wills between the Father and the Son. This shadow of separation continued until Jesus said, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

II. An Explanation Of This Agony.

- a. It cannot be explained upon the basis of martyrdom. Other martyrs went to the cross without this agony.
- b. It involved in some mysterious way a separation from the Father.
- c. The meaning lies somewhere in the redemptive relation of our sinful humanity. His sense of separation from the Father must have its roots in the separation which sin has affected between man and God. It was atonement in which Christ was the vital representative of our fallen race as the agonizing sould of our stricken humanity.

III. This Agony Is The Supreme Revelation Of The Glory of Christ.

- a. Perhaps some would look at His great miracles for the supreme revelation of His Glory. Others might think of the tranfiguration as the climax of His Glory.
- b. The depth of His agony was the height of His messianic glory. This was reached when He bore the weight of, "My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?"
- c. Through His agony He won His messianic throne. God gave Him a name, above all names, etc.