

The Wolf in the Garden

Written by Bill Perkins

"Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me;
yet not My will, but Yours be done."
- Luke 22:42

You may not know this about Jesus
but He felt it
when He entered the garden-

like stepping into a cave
and knowing your worst nightmare
wasn't a dream,

but a starving wolf
waiting in the shadows,
eyes burning with hatred,
breath reeking of decay,
its body shaking
with rage
as old as the fall,
waiting to attack Him-

and then the truth hits:

this isn't a nightmare,
but a wolf from our darkness,

released and hungry
to consume Him,

And behind it
a wave rising,
the wrath of God
about to break
on Him.

In that moment,
Jesus begged the Father
for another way.

A ram-
as He gave Abraham
so Isaac could live (Gen 22).

A shield from the fire-
as He gave Shadrach,
Meshach,
and Abednego (Dan 3).

A parting of the sea-
as He gave Moses (Ex. 14).

A sling and a stone-
as He placed
in David's hand (1 Sam 17).

Tame lions-
as He gave Daniel
in the pit (Dan 6).

Any rescue.
Any escape.

But He knew
none was coming.
The prophet had said it.
And so did the Son.

Still He pleaded
three times:

"If it's possible,
let this cup pass
from Me.

but Your will not Mine.

And then He stood.

The decision made.
The cup in His hand.
The path set.

He stepped into the darkness,
toward the wolf,
the beast waiting,

watching,
circling,
smelling,
waiting
to devour Him.

The garden held its breath.

But the story written
was the story
He lived-

He stepped into it.
He embraced it.
He bore it.
He fulfilled it.

Only Jesus crucified,
only Jesus risen, only Jesus reigning,
only Jesus returning for me.

What does it mean
that Jesus stepped toward
the wolf in the garden?

Jesus faced the fear I couldn't bear
and the judgment I couldn't endure.
His obedience opened the path
I could never walk alone.
His surrender became my freedom.
He entered the darkness
so I could live in the light.

Father, thank You for Jesus' obedience.
Teach me to submit my will
to Yours, even when it's hard.
I pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.