

## “ NOT MY WILL BUT THINE, BE DONE”

I have a burden in my heart to share this with you. I believe that it is God’s will that we are drawn closer to him, that we hunger after His will and his heart. Let’s read from Matthew 26:37-46. It is the account of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane, before he was given over to the authorities to be crucified. I have interlaced accounts from the other gospels to get a full perspective...

Matthew 26:37-46 (NASB) *Italics added for emphasis*

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.

38 Then He said to them, " *My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.*"

39 *And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, ""My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."*

Mark 14:36 says this way...

*36 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."*

And, Luke 22:41-46 this way...

41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

42 *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.* (KJV)

43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (\*\*some manuscripts don't have)

We will go back to Matthew starting at verse 40...

40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, ""So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?

41 *Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, ""*My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.*"

43 Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

44 And He left them again, and went away and prayed a *third time*, saying the same thing once more.

45 Then He came to the disciples and said to them," Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Our Lord Jesus left us with a perfect example. Jesus knew from the very beginning, before the foundations of the earth were made, before God stretched out the heavens, He already had the plan for our salvation. The Old Testament prepared the way for his coming, and he knew what he was about to face in the crucifixion. Isaiah 53:5 "But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed." The Lord knew the will of the Father, and foresaw the suffering that he would have to face. He took off his heavenly garment, and was made flesh specifically for the sacrificing of his body for us. Yet, in this moment, we see Jesus saying "*All things are possible for You*"... "*if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me*". But in the same breath, he yielded his will over to the Father "*nevertheless, not my will but thine, be done*". This was no easy task. Our perfect Word tells us he went to the Father not once but three times and that he was "*deeply grieved, to the point of death*". How many times have we been faced with a decision, a decision for God where we are in labour, in agony because the "*spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.*" Let us take our Lord's example to heart, as he put aside his will, and subjected Himself to the Father's. Jesus did not lack faith in the Father, being capable of "*All things*". Yet this was His will, and Jesus our Lord yielded. Praise God! Halleluiah!

Thank you Jesus for suffering, not only on the cross for us, but in handing over your will to the Father. You were alone in the garden and your disciples could not even stay awake to support you in your time of need. We thank you for your perfect example.

I want to tell you, or rather encourage you that we should be motivated by God's love for us. It is often very difficult to do according to the Father's will. But look at our Lord's motivation...

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; *who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame*, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2 KJV)

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 NASB)

"You sent Me, and *loved them*, even as *You have loved Me*." (John 17:23 NASB)

God loves us "even as" he loves our Lord! Halleluiah! Jesus prayed that the very same love God had for him would not only be given to us, but also be *in* us...

"I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the *love with which You loved Me may be in* them, and I in them." John 17:26

Oh I want us to be so filled with this Word that it overflows in us! That are hearts are so full of Him that we “overflow and speak” his word and do his will. That we hunger after God and seek after “his own heart”. Let our motivation be our love for him, for “we love, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19 NASB)

Lets get some insight into the fruit of doing things His way.

John 21:1-7,11

1 After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way.

2 Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

3 Simon Peter said to them, ""I am going fishing." They said to him, ""We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that *night* they caught nothing.

4 But when the *day* was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

5 So Jesus said to them, ""Children you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, ""No."

These disciples were not amateurs. They were not just a bunch of guys going out fishing one day. Peter was a *professional* fisherman. This was his livelihood. There they are casting their nets all night and into the next day. But they had caught absolutely nothing. Then, someone they did not even recognise is standing on the shore. Lets continue...

6 And He said to them, "" Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch."...

Who is this guy? That’s what I would be thinking. I would be saying to myself “hey, I am a fisherman by trade, and I have been fishing all day. Who is this guy trying to give *me* advice.” But look what they did...

6 ...*So they cast*, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

What would we think after that? “Yeah, I was just about to do that, put my net on the right side...yeah I was just about to do that.” Or, maybe we would humble ourselves and say, “who is this guy? He knows where the fish are even though we have been at this all night?”

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ""It is the Lord."

*It is the Lord! It is the Lord! It is the Lord!* Those words just grip my heart. I cannot put enough emphasis on this. Of course it’s the Lord. Look at the fruit. Of course it’s the

Lord! We can “cast our nets” in life all we want. All day we can toil and produce nothing. But look at the fruit. They listened *and* humbled themselves “...*So they cast*” They obeyed the Lord. In his ministry, we can “fish” all we want and we can try to do things our way. His way is better, it’s the only way. He is the author and finisher of faith. He draws people to himself. Lets be willing vessels.

Father, in everything we do, let us seek your face, your will and your counsel. Where you say go let us go, where you say stay let us stay...that we may bear good fruit.

11 Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.

I want to make a suggestion here. To me, it seems like 153 fish is really not that many. It doesn’t seem like many fish to fill a whole net. Perhaps I am wrong, but maybe it’s not 153 fish, but 153 *types* of fish. Every single type of fish in that lake.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

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## TEXT FOR THIS MESSAGE

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Mark 14:36 (NASB)

*36 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."*

Luke 22:41-46 (KJV)

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*nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

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Isaiah 53:3-12

3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?

9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

10 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be *in* them, and I in them." John 17:26

You sent Me, and *loved* them, *even* as You have loved Me. John 17:23

1 Samuel 13:14 “The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart”

Luke 6

45 The good man brings good things out of the good *stored up in his heart*, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. *For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.*

John 21

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