

"Thy Will Be Done"

At the hardest moment of His life, the Lord Jesus said, "Thy Will Be Done." Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is "In Search of the Lord's Way." We want to be able to say "Thy Will Be Done" in our own lives, so stay with us for an important study of God's Word.

Welcome to In Search of the Lord's Way; we're here to search God's Word for the Lord's Way to salvation and to live the Christian life. God's Word always gives us the light that we need to know the truth and to draw close to God. We want to be a part of your life each week.

A necessary lesson of life is that God is God, and we're human. God rules our lives, and we should live according to His will. When the Lord Jesus came into this world He understood that He was here to do the will of His Father in heaven. And we too must do His will. Every facet of our lives belongs to God our Father. The problems of this life arise when men ignore His will. We must learn to live a life that proclaims, "Thy will be done."

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray in the Sermon on the Mount, He said, "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'" (Matthew 6:9 to 10). What if the will of God were done on earth like it is in heaven? What if people were willing to set their sins aside and give their lives to the will of God? What if all the evil in this world vanished, and people set their hearts on righteousness?

Selfishness, greed, lust, and pride has caused our lives, and our homes, and our society untold pain and ruin. We desperately need God's will in our lives. "Thy will be done" is not only a prayer; it's a way of life.

Now we offer the information on this program free. And it's called, Thy Will Be Done. If you'd like a printed copy of our study, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send us an e-mail, searchtv@searchtv.org is our address. Or, call our toll-free telephone number: 1-800-321-8633. We also stream this program on our website at www.searchtv.org and on YouTube.

Larry Owsley will lead the Edmond church in song, we'll read from Mark 14:32 to 36, and explore "Thy will be done."

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to Mark chapter 14 verses 32 to 36. And it talks about Jesus when He is at Gethsemane and praying to the Father.

They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed." And 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."

That was the prayer of Jesus. What You will. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we pray that Your will might be done on earth as it is in heaven. That it will be done at all times and help us to love You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. In Jesus name, Amen.

"Thy will be done." Jesus must have found it both difficult and yet fulfilling to pray that the Father's will be done. While Jesus hated the thought of trials, a scourging, and an agonizing death, He knew it was necessary to fulfill His purpose in life. While He hated the thought of bearing the punishment for the sins of the world, He loved the world and wanted it to be saved from sin.

Now this situation seems to be absurd or contradictory and yet it's in fact true. The Bible explains in 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 21 says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." I think of 1 Peter 2 and verse 24 which says that, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." The holy Lord Jesus bore our sins at the cross so that we could become holy. Jesus saw Himself as an offering for our sins, an act of love fully within the will of God.

Hebrews 12 and verse 2 says that the Lord Jesus "for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." He despised the pain and the shame but He loved the outcome of what He did on the cross. He looked to the joy set before Him, the joy of men finding forgiveness in His sacrifice. He didn't want to die, but His desire for our eternal salvation was greater than His desire to live in the flesh. He rejoiced in the eternal not the temporary, and He was glad to do the Father's will.

Doing the Father's will was not a new concept or behavior to Jesus. From the time that He was born, He realized that He had come into this world to do the Father's will. At age 12, Jesus was in the Temple doing His Father's business. When the devil tempted Him at age 30, Jesus said in Matthew 4 and verse 10, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

In John, chapter 4, Jesus passed through Samaria. Stopping at a well near the town of Sychar, Jesus sent his disciples into town for some food while He rested. At the well Jesus had a remarkable conversation with a woman who had been married five times and was living with a man. When she learned Jesus was the Messiah, she ran into town and told all the men of the town and the disciples then returned with the food. They had been sent in earlier.

John 4:31 to 34 says: Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples were saying to one another well, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work." You see, the Lord Jesus lived to do the will of His Father in heaven.

In John 5 and verse 30 Jesus explained, "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." You see, Jesus regarded the will of the Father as the perfect standard of right and wrong. He didn't want to vary from the Father's will in any way, so He listened to the Father. He made judgments of right and wrong only as the will of the Father instructed. He did not act on His own initiative.

In Jesus' heart and mind, keeping the will of the Father was how He remained in a right relationship with His Father. Yes. The Lord said to His disciples in John 15:9 to 10 on the night before He was betrayed, "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." Now abiding in the Father's will was an act of love and devotion. Keeping the Lord's commandments is how we demonstrate our love to the Lord and remain true in our love for Him.

In 1 John 2 verses 3 to 5 says, "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected." Now our love for God moves us to be obedient to His will and to keep His commandments.

When Jesus was told that His family was outside the house and they wanted to speak to Him, the Lord Jesus asked in Matthew 12:48 to 50, well, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.” Now Jesus claimed a close kinship to anyone who does the will of His Father in heaven. That’s what Jesus lived for and what He wants us to live for. For Jesus, obeying the Father was not legalism. It was love.

Now disobedience isn’t loving. As Jesus was finishing the Sermon on the Mount, He said in Matthew 7:21 to 23 that, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

The Lord knew people would claim to have a close relationship with Him, even though they lived lawlessly by their own rules. They wanted the blessing of Christianity but didn’t surrender to the will of the Father in heaven. The Lord Jesus never knew them. He never had a relationship with them. They never belonged to Him, because they lived on their own lawless terms and would not obey the will of the Father. You can’t live by your own will and expect to please the Lord. No.

You can’t draw close to God while you turn your back on what the Father teaches. You obey God by obeying what He teaches, not by saying you love Him while living the way you desire. A person who lives in lawlessness says to the Lord, “Not Your will be done but mine.” He lives by his own rules and ignores God’s law. He hasn’t set his mind on the Father’s will but on pleasing himself.

A person who plays by his own will thinks he is the exception. He thinks his sins aren’t as bad as other people’s sins. He does as he pleases and then presumes the Lord will consider that as obedience to His will. He counts on his own works, not God’s will, to assure him a place in heaven. The Lord’s rejection will surprise him.

And rather than play by our own rules, we should strive to follow the will of the Lord. It will not only bless us, it’ll also bless everyone around us. The Bible says in Romans 12 and verse 2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” Now doing God’s will shows everyone the value of the Lord’s way! It is good and acceptable and perfect.

Now Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy will be done.” Have you thought about how radically different and better our world would be if people truly did the will of God? God’s will for our lives is no small matter. If people did the will of God, crime would disappear, the moral climate of this country would drastically change, and people would be more loving and less selfish. We’d keep the golden rule. The Lord Jesus taught in Matthew 7 verse 12, “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

If we did God’s will on earth, as it is in heaven, God’s Word would have a place of priority in our lives and decisions. We’d be asking the question, “What does God’s Word have to say about this matter or that?” We’d realize that the God who created us knows us better than we know ourselves and teaches us what is best. We’d make our life choices and think of right and wrong on the basis of God’s teaching not our opinions or our culture.

If we did God’s will on earth, we’d begin to pray as a people again. We’d realize that nothing good can happen without God’s blessing and favor. We’d seek His face. Well what does that mean, “seek His face”? It means we’d look to God for help and for the answers of life. When Solomon became king, he

asked God for wisdom to know how to lead the people of Israel. And he worried about what might happen if Israel forsook the Lord and faced famine or were defeated in battle. Solomon asked God to be willing to forgive His people.

And the Lord God answered Solomon's prayer with this promise found in 2 Chronicles 7:13 to 14, "If...My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land." God wants to draw close to His people, and when they pray to Him with humble hearts, turning from wickedness, God will hear and heal them.

If God's will were truly done on earth, we'd stop hearing God's name being taken in vain and we'd stop hearing filthy talk. Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." Words are important; and our speech would be gracious, seasoned with salt, as we ought to speak.

If God's will were done on earth, we'd set our hearts on things that bless rather than concentrate on things that corrupt. The Bible says in Philippians 4 and verse 8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." When our minds concentrate on the good, we'll see good all around us; and we'll become better people. 1 Corinthians 15 and verse 33 says, "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company ruins good morals.'" When what is bad fills our minds, evil fills our lives.

If God's will were done on earth, we'd think more about the Lord and about heaven. Colossians 3:1 to 4 says, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

Where are you going with your life? Do you show by your life that the will of God is good and acceptable and perfect? Or are you calling Jesus "Lord," while following your own will?

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father help us to look to You and to what You wish and desire and will for our lives. Rather than to be selfish and only think of what we want. Father help us to love You and to do Your will always. In Jesus name, Amen.

Let's read from John chapter 3 beginning in verse 1 and going to verse 5.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Now Jesus was emphatic about it and said in verse seven, "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" Some think that when it comes to salvation, the will of God is flexible and doesn't matter, but this is false. Being born of water and the Spirit is a reference to baptism. And baptism is a must to be saved.

John 1:11 to 13 says that, "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." Now you cannot be saved by substituting a sinner's prayer for God's will. God is God, and we're human. We can't edit or overrule the will of God. If we're saved by God's grace, it will only be by His will.

What is God's will for us to be saved? Well, upon hearing the gospel of Jesus, we must believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God. We must repent of our sins and turn to righteousness. We must confess our faith in Christ and be baptized. Now baptism is that new birth in water and the Spirit. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ so that our sins will be forgiven. And when we're baptized, God washes away our sins (Acts 22 and verse 16). I pray that you, today, will do the will of God.

We hope you've been blessed by today's study of Thy Will Be Done. If you want a free printed copy of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org.

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