

“Your Will Be Done”

Luke 22.39-46

Faith on the Line – God’s People in Times of Crisis

WORLD IN CRISIS – America – Impact is Global / World Trade Center

DEAD – many nations, peoples, and religions

EMOTIONAL FOG – STATE OF DISBELIEF – NO TV

Reading news on Internet / Not wanting to turn on – MORE BAD NEWS

ASKED FOR A WORD FOR THIS TIME TO SHARE AT ICF – Prayer

READ THESE WORDS FROM YESTERDAY’S NEW YORK TIMES -

“Yesterday, in recognition of that aching condition and to ease the sense of helplessness that comes in tragedy's wake, much of the world took pause. Their citizens stitched together various moments — of song and of silence, of flowering wreaths laid and of flickering candles held — to honor the dead.

It may have seemed inadequate, but it is what people do. In London, hundreds stood in silence after the noontime chimes of Big Ben. In Chicago, thousands gathered in Daley Plaza...In Taiwan, firefighters in uniform held a solemn candlelight vigil. And in Las Vegas, city officials made plans to darken the strip's neon glow.

Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan, which received many of those wounded in Tuesday's collapse of the World Trade Center towers, a rabbi and a minister urged people to find strength in the Book of Psalms ("The Lord will keep you from all harm"). And at noon in the Croatian city of Dubrovnik — some 4,500 miles away — students paused from their studies, stood and bowed their heads.

Washington National Cathedral, President Bush and other leaders gathered “We come before God to pray for the missing and the dead, and for those who loved them.”

TIME OF CRISIS – LOOK AT JESUS IN CRISIS – see Him Praying

1. The Submissive Son

Jesus real man – WITHOUT SIN – in Muck and Misery of Humanity

MANY DIFFICULTIES – began ministry - Attack Devil – 40 day Fast
 Lk 4.13 “When the devil had finished all this tempting, HE LEFT HIM UNTIL AN OPPORTUNE TIME”

Devil was always nipping at Jesus’ heels like a barking dog

Lk 12.50 “I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!”

SHADOW OF CROSS LOOMED LARGE OVER ALL HE DID

GREATEST CRISIS – NIGHT BEFORE HE WOULD DIE ON CROSS

PLAN SET INTO MOTION FROM ALL ETERNITY

GOD THE SON – REDEEM THOSE ELECTED by GOD the FATHER

“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up on the last day.”

John 6.38,39

NO CROWN WITHOUT THE CROSS – UNIMAGINABLE AGONY

BEFORE CROSS – PRAYS – prayer hardest to say / greatest blessing

YOUR WILL BE DONE

East side of Jerusalem – Olive Grove – Gethsemane / Mt. of Olives

a. Preached – Teacher who Taught His Disciples How to Pray

v. 40 to disciples “Pray that you will not fall into temptation”

v. 46 sleep – “get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation”

ONLY PRAYER – ARM them for the SPIRITUAL BATTLE

FAMILY PRAYER “May your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”

Mt 5.44 “Pray for those who persecute you”

Lk 18.1 Jesus told his disciples...they should always pray and not give up

JESUS TEACHING – CALL TO PRAYER – MANY EXAMPLES

Humble Publicans – Proud Pharisees – A widow who lost her only Son

Roman Centurion – former Prostitute – Tax Collectors

Worried Hosts with No Bread to feed the Surprise Visitors

Widow pleading with Unjust Judge – Little Children

SON OF DAVID KNEW PROMISE OF GOD TO DAVID – Psa 50.15

“call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver you”

Jesus’ ½ brother James - “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray”

JESUS – LIKE ANY GOOD PREACHER – PREACHED ON PRAYER

b. Practiced – What does that preacher do during own crisis?

Bush - recalled a beloved priest dying while giving the last rites to a firefighter

In a similar way -- Jesus – Practiced what He Preached

Heb 5.7,8a “During the days of Jesus life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission”

v. 39 Jesus went AS USUAL to the Mount of Olives – HOLY ROUTINE

6.12 “Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, spent the night praying to God”

Jn 17.6,9 “I have revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world...I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours”

v 41 He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down & prayed

HE TOLD THEM WHAT TO DO & SHOWED THEM HOW TO DO

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is the devil...for this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God...Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted” Heb 2.14-18

2. The Sovereign Surrenders

YOUR WILL BE DONE Different Meanings of WILL OF GOD

a. God's Design v. 42 "yet not my will, but yours be done"

Jesus – God and Man – fully God, fully man / Human & Divine Will
2 DISTINCT NATURES – ONE PERSON

NOT MY WILL = NOT WHAT I ASK AS A MAN ON EARTH
YOUR WILL = SOVEREIGN WILL OF GOD IN HEAVEN

PERFECT – EFFICACIOUS – SOVEREIGN WILL OF GOD
Beyond what we can know fully on Earth – Determined only by God
Absolute – Unlimited – Independent – Fixed

LITTLE BOY "Mom, I think it is God's will for me to be a preacher"
MOM "That is a great calling, son, how do you know this?"
LB "Well, I know that I will be going to church all my life, and I find it hard to sit still. So if I am going to go, I might as well stand and shout"

James Boice "God does not need to consult anyone in formulating his plans, & he does not need any help from anyone in carrying them out"

1 Cor 1.1 "Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God"

Michelangelo / criticized by church leaders as worked in St. Peter's Rome
"Even if I were able to make my plans clear to you, which I am not, I am not obliged to do so. I must ask you to do your best to help me, and when the work is complete, my plan will be understood"

Acts 18.21 when Paul left Ephesus - "I will come back if it is God's will"

GOD'S WILL WILL BE DONE – IT WILL NEVER FAIL

David Livingstone – great dangers in Africa – asked "Are you afraid?"
"I am immortal until the will of God for me is accomplished"

PRAYER IS TO OPEN YOUR HEART AND MIND FULLY TO GOD

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"
1 Thess 5.18

b. God's Demand - what God requires of us

v. 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me"

JESUS DID THE WILL OF HIS FATHER – submits to His demands

FAMILY PRAYER "Your will be done" – This sense of God's Will

NO REASON TO PRAY FOR GOD'S DESIGN – IT WILL HAPPEN

Scriptures which urge is to obey the Will of God – God's Demand

"For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men" 1 Peter 2.15

"Epaphras (the pastor of the Colossians) is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured" 4.12

"It is God's will that you should be sanctified" 1 Thess 4.3

PROBLEM AREA – appears that evil triumphs / is this God's will?

GOD'S DESIGN – how could God design recent American catastrophe?

Wars – Suffering – Birth Defects – Famine – Nuclear Warfare?

ANOTHER PROBLEM – reconciling God's Will / Man's Responsibility

ANSWER SEEN IN THE CROSS OF JESUS –

GREATEST EVIL IN HISTORY – murder of the sinless Son of God

RESULTS IN THE GREATEST BLESSING – SALVATION OF GOD

CROSS – God's Design / Man's Responsibility 22.22 "The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him"

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD'S WILL Deut 29.29

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law"

"The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever" 1 John 2.17

Family in England had 2 sons – one wanted prestige, joined Parliament

OTHER WENT AS MISSIONARY TO CHINA

Parliamentarian today unknown – Missionary named Hudson Taylor

c. God's Delight – when we seek His will for will - SUBMISSION
 EASIER TO PRAY THIS FOR OTHERS – NOT SURE OURSELVES
 WE MAY HAVE DIFFERENT MOTIVES - PRAYING THIS PRAYER

1) RESENTMENT – no other choice, God has us trapped, OK you win

2) SELF PITY – I am so sad, no one is worse off than me

HAVE PITY PARTY – INVITE SELF – GOD CAN COME TOO

3) SUPERIORITY – we think we know more about situation than God

6 Billion people in World – God must be quite busy – Needs our Advice

GOD KNOWS US BETTER THAN WE KNOW OURSELVES

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE LOOKED BACK AT SITUATION
 WE THOUGHT WE KNEW – GLAD OUR WILL NOT DONE!

Rom 8.28 “God works all things together for the good of those who love Him,
 who are called according to His purposes”

4) REBELLION – we want our own way / not just problem of kids

Frank Sinatra was 80 years old and still singing “I Did it My Way”

Man or Woman–Decides 1 day no longer in love w/spouse – ANOTHER

POTENTIAL FOR ALL OF US - REBEL AGST GOD & HIS WILL

5) FEAR – maybe the most common Wrong Motive

Think - BIG MEAN GOD WANTS US TO BE MISERABLE

“My mother died of cancer before she was 40 – it was the will of God”

“Thousands died in New York last Tuesday – it was the will of God”

NO WONDER PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO PRAY THIS PRAYER!

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IMMEDIATE CAUSE – SIN OR EVIL & ULTIMATE CAUSE – GOD WHO WORKS GOOD OUT OF EVIL

GOD WORKS ALL FOR OUR GOOD AND HIS GLORY

JESUS DELIGHTED HIS FATHER – CAME TO DO HIS WILL

“Here I am, I have come – it is written about me in the scroll. I delight to do your will, O my God, your law is within my heart” Psa 40.7,8

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” Heb 12.2

WE MUST BE WILLING TO DO THE WILL OF GOD TO KNOW IT

John 7.17 “If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”

Eph 6.5,6 “Slaves, obey your earthly masters...just as you would obey Christ...doing the will of God from your heart”

“All heaven is waiting to help those who will discover the will of God & do it”

John Newton “If 2 angels were sent from heaven to do God’s will, and one was appointed to sweep the streets, he would feel no inclination to change employment – because he would have the sure conviction that he was doing what God wanted”

Romans 12.2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, perfect, and pleasing will”

IS HIS WILL THAT TO YOU – good, perfect, and pleasing?

PROCESS OF GROWTH – SOMETIMES DYING – INTO MATURITY

St. Augustine “The new will that had begun in me – and made me want to be free to worship and enjoy you, God, the only certain joy – was not yet strong enough to overpower the old will that had become tough with age. So there were now two wills battling it out inside me, one old, one new; one carnal, one spiritual; and in this conflict they ripped my soul to pieces”

3. The Sorrowing Savior

“Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him”

Hebrews 5.8,9

a. Angel v. 43 “an angel from heaven ... strengthened him”

Every life has its Gethsemane / every Gethsemane its angel

ON EARTH “Jesus was made a little lower than the angels” Heb 2.9

GOD STRENGTHENS US TO GO THRU TRIALS, NOT AROUND

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful, he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out SO THAT YOU CAN STAND UP UNDER IT”

SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY OUT IS THROUGH

b. Anguish Nothing in our experience fully compares with this

v. 44 Being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground”

GREATER ANGUISH – GREATER THE EARNESTY IN PRAYER

St. Augustine – A wise child runs TOWARD his father when he has done wrong, so that his blows will not easily strike

“Like” – drops of blood – perhaps falling clots of sweat

or Hematidrosis – rare physical phenomenon / great emotional stress

Tiny Blood vessels rupture in the sweat glands

First Adam cursed to the sweat of his brow
Last Adam conquers the curse by sweat and blood

ANGUISH? – more than just natural fear of death – AWFUL CUP

Psa 75.8 “In the hand of the Lord is a cup full of foaming wine mixed with spices; he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth drink it down to its very dregs”

Isa 51.22 “This is what the Sovereign Lord says – See I have taken out of your hand the cup that made you stagger, from that cup, he goblet of my wrath”

Jer 25.15 “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, said – Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath...when they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them”

Hab 2.16 “The cup from the Lord’s right hand is coming around to you, and disgrace will cover your glory”

JESUS WAS ABOUT TO DRINK THIS AWFUL CUP OF WRATH

MORE THAN MORAL EXAMPLE – EXAMPLE OF SELFLESSNESS

**BEARING IN HIS BODY THE FULL PUNISHMENT OF OUR SIN
ENDURING THE FURY OF GOD’S WRATH IN OUR PLACE**

HE ANTICIPATED THE AGONY “I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!” Lk 12.50

CHALLENGED THE PROUD DISCIPLES WHO SOUGHT GLORY
“Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?” Matt 20.21

SAID TO PETER WHO TRIED TO DEFEND HIM
“Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?” John 18.11

**GARDEN GOT SMALL TASTE OF HORROR
FULLY EMERSED IN IT ON THE CROSS**

GREAT VICTORY IN GARDEN – WILLING CONSENT OF JESUS

c. Appeal – see both the Disappointment and Compassion of Jesus

vs. 45,46 READ

JESUS WAS SUFFERING / THEY WERE SLUMBERING

PERHAPS NIGHT JAMES LEARNED TO PREFACE HIS CLAIMS

“Now listen, you who say ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’”

JESUS PRAYED FOR PETER

22.31-32 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.”

JESUS STILL PRAYS FOR US

“He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he ALWAYS LIVES TO INTERCEDE FOR THEM” Heb 7.25

THERE IS A MAN IN HEAVEN – ONE LIKE US – DIED FOR US LIVING LORD AND PRAYING SAVIOR – GREAT COMFORT

ARCHIBALD HART – South African Christian Psychologist
Daughter called – Dad, Richard (her husband) has not come home tonight
I called his workplace and they said he never came in to work today

Dad – We must call the hospitals and ask if there’s someone who came in that they have not identified

Daughter called and learned there was such a man in Intensive Care
Asked her father to go and see with her

Trauma Center – Unrecognizable man – Hooked to life support machines

Examine his body and recognize that it was her husband Richard

Doctor – There is a 99% chance that he will die in the next 2 hours

Daughter – What can I do? What can I pray?

Hart – There is only one prayer – Thy will be done

PRAYER OF TREMENDOUS COURAGE

God not Immediate Cause of Accident – Incompetent Reckless Driver
God is Ultimate Cause – For our Good and His Glory

Disappointment – His appointment
Change one letter, then I see
That the thwarting of my purpose
Is God's better plan for me

His appointment must be blessing
Though it may come in disguise,
For the end from the beginning
Open to His vision lies

Disappointment – His appointment,
Whose? The Lord's who loves me best.
Understands and knows me fully
Who my faith and love would test.

For, like loving earthly parents,
He rejoices when He knows
That His child accepts unquestioned
All that from His wisdom flows

Disappointment – His appointment,
No good thing will He withhold,
From denials oft we gather
Treasures of his love untold.

All my life's plan is his molding,
Not one single choice is mine.
Let me answer, unrepining,
Father, not my will, but thine"

Why Should We Pray Thy Will Be Done? by Archibald Hart

We demonstrate that we can trust the God we claim to be our Savior. Those who see our faith will be drawn to Him through this trust.

We reveal the understanding that all of life is finally under the control of God - and that even while we do not see a purpose in all its shadows now, we will one day.

We place all our troubles under God's protection – claiming that the blood of Christ has redeemed all that is sinful and restored all that is not whole.

We demonstrate our understanding of the role suffering plays in God's redemptive plan. We cannot grow without suffering, and we miss a great part of God's blessing when we fail to participate with Him in tribulation.

We free ourselves of unnecessary worry and anxiety. If God's will is being done, why should we fret and rage? If His purpose is being worked out – whether through apparent failure, unexplainable sickness, or other circumstances – why would we oppose it?

We avoid wasting time and energy on trivial problems. We can see the “whole” much better and understand how God works in all of life.

We confront our own desires and face the truth about ourselves. Even though this may be painful, even humiliating, in the final analysis it is indispensable to a lasting happiness. Praying “thy will be done” and applying it specifically to our own personalities cannot fail to revolutionize our lives.