

Daily Devotional, April 5, 2021 Thy Will Be Done

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” Luke 22:42 (NIV)

As we have now celebrated the resurrection of Christ some of us were exposed to older television and theatrical movies that show different parts of Jesus’s life. I remember growing up and watching these and seeing the dramatic sweep of Christ’s story, the conflict, the despair and the confusion of the disciples. This was not the Messiah that they and the rest of the Jewish population had envisioned. When I watched these various films when I was younger, I always wanted Pontius Pilate to free Jesus instead of letting Barabbas go free, and in the garden of Gethsemane, I wanted God to reach down and grab the cup away from Jesus.

Being young and naive, I didn’t understand the great scriptural consequences this would create if either of these things were to happen, but I believe it was a very human knee-jerk reaction to the stress of the circumstances I was encountering. We don’t necessarily relish stressful situations. We often choose the path of least resistance not the path less traveled. The less painful way is always easiest.

The scene of Christ praying in the garden is always a highly emotional one. It shows both Jesus’ full humanity and His full deity. Jesus already knows what is to come; having been born and raised in a human body, He knows the pain, He understands the suffering and abandonment that are about to become all too real. He also knows the make up of His and how frightened, perplexed, and mournful they would be. He must have known how erratic they were going to be and how some will deny, others will fall away, and yet another will betray Him.

In the middle of all of this, Jesus calls on His Father and asks that this cup might pass from Him. But interestingly, he adds a compelling clarification. Not *my* will but *your* will be done. Despite all of the terrible events that were about to come Christ’s way, He suppressed His own will for that of His Father’s knowing that the Father’s plan was good and perfect and would achieve the ultimate reason for His entering into this world in human form: to atone for mankind’s sins. Jesus knew He was the only hope for all of us fallen people. Christ loves us while we are yet sinners, and He went to the cross so that we could find peace in our relationship with Him in our lives today.

The model we see of Christ’s impassioned prayer and His true submissiveness of His will is something that can get overlooked and lost in this familiar story. Jesus knows what stresses us. He knows what causes us sleepless nights, and He is bigger and stronger than all of them. Jesus is larger than those things that bother us because He followed His fathers will. This should be a perfect model for all of us. By following God’s will Jesus provides His atoning love for us, and He can present us as spotless and blameless to His Father.

These great gifts from the Garden of Gethsemane are the model for us to live by. In this moment we see the power of fervent prayer and of submitting our will to God. In the Garden and at the cross, we see the free gift of forgiveness in the atonement of Christ. Jesus did His Father’s will to save all whom the Father will give him. May we give of ourselves in the same manner and to trust that following God’s will, will carry us through our doubts and fears knowing that God wants what is best for us.

Lord, to know Your Son, Jesus, is to know Your will. When we are united to Your Son by our faith and trust in Him, we know that Your will for our lives is to listen to Him. Lord, teach us to believe and help our unbelief. Help us to cling ever more tightly to Your Son Jesus, that we may also have no doubt about Your will for our lives. Thank You for sending Your son to atone for our sin. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.