

Your Will Be Done
Sermon, June 13, 2021

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36-46

Golden Verse: *“Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”* Matthew 6:10

This prayer is strongly related to the two previous ones: “Hallowed be Your Name” and “Your Kingdom Come”.

Your will be done should be understood as Your Kingdom will be realized when we all submit ourselves to Your will.

As I was preparing this sermon, I wondered how often I have prayed this prayer: Your will be done. I was shocked to come to a conclusion that often God’s will was not done, because of me. I was an obstacle in God’s way and, for this, God was slowed down to do His will on this earth. God did not put me aside and He did not hurt me because of this, just because He loves me. But it is a shame, that I, who prayed Your will be done, stopped God in His plans. I will explain how to you.

People who have their own will, and who don’t want to count on God or don’t want to know what God would think about their plans, do everything so that their will should be done.

When we acknowledge God’s holy power, we all can behave as “good religious people” who honour and respect Him. We all learned that God should be honoured. However, often, consciously or subconsciously, we try to MANIPULATE God. We pray, we worship and we make donations, just to force God, in a gentle way, to listen to us and to do something for us, or to do us a favour. Sometimes, we even make some promises to God, that if He would do certain things for us, then we will honour Him more or we will change our behaviours or we will give Him a gift.

Let’s take a deeper look into our general prayers. How often do we say: “Oh God, please help me.” Help me in what? Help me to reach my goals, so MY will be done. Lord, I have my goals, my plans, and I need You to help me, because without Your help I cannot reach my goals. God, I am your servant, but You must serve me. Please do what I want.

Thirdly, we can belong to that group of people who sadly acknowledge God’s sovereignty, and they bite their lips as they say: God’s will be done, because I cannot do anything against Him.

Often I hear: well, we have to accept what God decided. But in the back of our minds, we say: “I have to accept it. It is what it is. I cannot change the past. There is no reason to fight against God’s will.” As you see and feel, in these sentences, there is bitterness and struggle. We have to accept what God decided. We cannot do anything against this. This, too, can be the “good religious” people’s way of thinking.

Let’s see how WE, as God’s faithful children, should pray this prayer: Thy will be done.

If we once offered our lives into God’s hand, if we realized and experienced that He is our loving and caring heavenly Father, then we do believe that the Lord God will do everything for our good and benefit. Whatever happens to me in the future will benefit me. Whatever God decides about me will be for my good. For this, I lay down my life in God’s hand, and I will love and serve Him with my whole being. I am sure that whatever happens to me in the future will come from His loving heart, and I will worship my Lord in every situation, no matter what.

I shared this with you already, that I know a wonderful person, a Vietnamese Christian, who was driving home from work, and suddenly another car crashed into her car. As she saw the car driving with great speed towards her, she got very scared. She knew she could not do anything to avoid the impact. After the collision, she was trembling in the car. But in the next 15 seconds, the very first sentence which left her lips was: “Lord, I take this accident from Your hand.” Then she struggled to leave her car and she went to see if the other driver, who caused the accident, was OK.

Lord, I take this from Your hand. It is not pleasurable, it does not make me happy, I am in pain, this is causing me a lot of discomfort, but I will take this from Your hand. Once, I offered myself to you, Lord, and I am praying that Your will be done in my life.

It is not easy to reach that point, when we totally submit ourselves to the Lord. On many occasions, our hearts will be like a battle zone, where our feelings and our faith will fight with each other. If we say YES once to the Lord, laying our lives in His hand, we have to say YES to everything that God will prepare for us in the future.

If we say YES to Him, we have to say YES to everything which will come.

My faith's biggest victory was five years ago, when I accepted from my Lord my throat problems, when I was told that I might lose my voice for good. My heart was a war zone for a short while. But very shortly I surrendered, and I prayed that He, my God and Heavenly Father, should be glorified in my illness. Praised be the Lord's name.

We often can see that some people invite God to compromise with them. They create their own plans and try to convince God to bless their plans and to help them to achieve their goals.

Dear beloved, it is very important to make plans, to know what we would like to do in the near future, and in which way we would like to go.

But it is more important to ask the Lord if our will is according to His will, to ask Him to show us in which direction we should go.

I met people who have a deep desire to be close to the Lord, and their hearts' desire is to be in Heaven with our Lord. However, they have a hard time allowing God to have His will in their lives.

In their prayers, these people seemed to say: "Your kingdom come, but my will be done".

Plan, plan, and plan. Be organized and plan. This is what we learned from our parents and this is what we teach to our children.

It is hard is to give up our plans, but if those are NOT according to God's will, we have to learn to give them up and to pray with a humble heart: Lord, Thy will be done, not mine.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ once went through a very similar crisis. On Maundy Thursday, He was praying: "*My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.*" (Matthew 26:39) Jesus was faithful to do God's will, even sacrificing His own life.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Once, I heard how a minister tried to explain this during a Sunday school class. The minister said to the children: "What do you think children, if God says to angels to come and help you because you need help, do you think the angels would? Or would they say to God: 'Oh Lord, not now.' 'I am not in a good mood.' 'Maybe tomorrow.' Do you think the angels would allow themselves to hesitate to obey God's order?" All the children said: "NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO WAY." Not at all. Then the minister continued: "Then

how do WE dare to hesitate when God is asking us to do, to serve, to obey? Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.”

Closing, I want to highlight from the Bible God, the Father’s will, and Christ Jesus’ will.

Paul in Thessalonians says that God does not want human beings to die because of their own sin, but to repent and live.

Christ Jesus said: I want you to be one. As I loved you, so you should love one another.

Let’s include constantly in our prayers: “What do you want me to do, Father God, so that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?” Amen