

Weaving the Word

Your Will Be Done

Part 37 – June 28, 2015

We're learning to distinguish the difference between religion and the good news!



We're on an epic journey, weaving together Jesus' 3.5 year ministry from baptism to resurrection. We're currently weaving in His apprenticeship training, as recorded mostly by Matthew, and commonly called the Sermon on the Mount.

And, within this training session, we're taking a few Sundays to look intently at the model prayer Jesus instructs His disciples to use.



The Lord's Prayer is a Guide, a memory aid, not to be repeatedly recited for its own sake, but to: pray, pause, and personalize.

And, we need to remember to let our words be few, our ears be open, and our hearts be ready.



Jesus says that when we pray, we should:

Meet our Papa with a heartfelt childlike greeting.

Resubmit to His sovereign, all-knowing authority.

Hallow His saving name with grateful reverence.



Then, we can begin making requests; *however ...*

We must seek first *His* kingdom-purpose as His Ambassador.

But **[if we] seek first his kingdom [What do you think we seek second?]** and **his righteousness** ... – Matthew 6:33a NIV



And, *this* is the next indexed request that we pray, pause, and personalize: *"Your will be done."*

Last week we asked: **"What is God's kingdom; and how does it come?"**

This week we're asking: **"What is God's will; and how is it done?"**

Did you know that **each of us is warned to figure this out?**

Be very careful, then, how you live ... do not be foolish, but **understand what the Lord's will is.** - Ephesians 5:15-17 NIV

Why?

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only he who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven.” - Matthew 7:21 NIV

So, we’re talking about the Father’s **revealed will** (or, **specific instructions**) that **we need to know, and best be doing!** Because ...

The world and its desires pass away, but **the man who does the will of God** lives forever. - 1 John 2:17 NIV



So, what is God’s will? And, are you doing it?

Just before Jesus was betrayed in the garden of Gethsemane, He said this to His disciples.

“I am the true vine, and **my Father is the gardener.**” – John 15:1 NIV



Why would Jesus call God *the Gardener*?

Because, He created us to live with Him in His garden.

But, we betrayed Him and became exiles in a wilderness of briers and thorns, pecking birds, and scorching sun; that’s Jesus’ point in His parable of the gardener/sower. (Mark 4:3-7)



So, **God-the-Gardner sent the Vine to restore the garden.** (Isaiah 51:3)

And, once again He was betrayed in a garden ... *because that’s what we do.* But then He rose in a garden. (John 19:41)

Don’t miss God’s insightful humor when **the first person to see Jesus alive, Mary Magdalen, believes that He’s the gardener.**

“Woman,” he said, “**why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?**” **Thinking he was the gardener,** she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” Jesus said to her, “**Mary.**” ... – John 20:15-16a NIV



What’s so great here is that it doesn’t say she’s mistaken.

Because, she was ... *but she wasn’t.*

Because, *He was and He is!* (John 1:1-3)

What is the will of every good gardener? Produce. A crop.

In the Parable of the Gardener, Jesus says ...

“Others, like seed sown on good soil, **hear** the word, **accept** it, and **produce a crop**—
thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.” – Mark 4:20 NIV

A crop of what?

Something that *everyone knows* only grows in God’s garden.



Last week we talked about being Ambassadors of reconciliation in an outpost of darkness, but I left off the last verse.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, **so that** in him we might **become the righteousness of God**. – 2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV

The **fruit of the righteous** is **a tree of life** ... – Proverbs 11:30a NIV



On earth as it is in God’s Garden! God’s presence. *Heaven. Home.*

What does Spirit-transplanted tree-of-life fruit look like on earth?

The fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness** and **self-control**. – Galatians 5:22-23a NIV

This is how we personalize this part of the Lord’s Prayer Guide. **We must examine ourselves for the fruit of the Spirit. And then, talk to God about the condition of your inventory.**

“Your will be done, on earth *as it is in heaven*”: immediately, completely, and passionately. Spiritually, morally, and relationally.

Many believers focus too little on the fruit, and too much on whether God wants ‘em to take a job, buy a house, or *whatever*. **He wants you to make decisions. Take risks. Fail. Succeed. Grow.**

As long as you do whatever you do as if you were in His garden.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord ... - Colossians 3:23 NIV



When I was young, my uncle Joe took me on his shrimp boat.

We had a huge catch, and boiled ‘em onboard, in a big copper kettle. Uncle Joe emptied a 50 lb. bag of sea salt into the pot. Then, we got to walk the hallways of steaming racks of shrimp, with a cup of melted butter! Now, those shrimp had spent their whole life in salt-water. But, Uncle Joe had to pour salt in the pot when he cooked ‘em. *Why?*

Those little shrimp didn’t absorb the brine they swam in.

Likewise, the fruit of righteousness keeps the sea of sin that we swim in from seeping in, if and when we do God's will.

When you're mistreated, do you do hate, or do you do love?

When you're disappointed, do you do despair, or do you do joy?

When you're slandered, do you do drama, or do you do peace?

Who's will do you really do?

Who's will is actually done?

Are you cultivating the crop our Father calls us to produce?

Not of our own power – *can't* – but, of our own *choosing*.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:5 NIV

Why?

For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. – 1 John 2:15-17 NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy ... **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world**, [We must deliberately and consistently un-conform ourselves to this self-worshipping world] but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. [How do we reset the autopilot the world has wired into us? By God's Spirit, through God's Word, to the degree we read it, hear it, memorize it, ponder it, and/or discuss it] **Then you will be able to test** [examine and evaluate for yourself] and **approve** [actually comprehend and appreciate] **what God's will is** [which each of us is warned to figure out; so we can remove the blinders and see it for the gorgeous truth it is!]—his **good**, [brilliant, excellent, and honorable] **pleasing** [satisfying, gratifying, and delightful] and **perfect** [complete, unqualified, and unequalled] will. – Romans 12:1-2 NIV

David wrote in the Psalms ...

I **desire** to **do** your **will**, O my God ... – Psalm 40:8a NIV

Do you?