

“Making God’s Will Mine”
Matthew 26:36-45

Dr. A.C. Reid – in a brief sermon delivered in Harvard University Chapel – said: “To discover the will of God is our highest privilege, our greatest need, and our finest source of strength.” Dr. Reid is right. But if I were to survey any group of people by asking, “What do you think is the most important thing in your life?” I would receive many different answers. We are living in a day when people have many hopes and dreams and priorities. But for Jesus Christ – during the course of His earthly life – there was one thing that really mattered – one thing that took top priority; and that one thing was to do the will of God.

In John 4:34 Jesus said to His disciples: “My meat is to do the will of the Father which hath sent me, and to finish His work.”

In John 5:30 Jesus declares: “I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

In John 6:38 Jesus affirms: “For I come down from Heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me.”

In the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before His arrest and crucifixion Jesus prayed three times saying, “Not my will, but thine be done.”

In the Christian life, Jesus Christ is our example. He lived life as God intends for all of us to live – in the center of God’s will for our lives.

It is my conviction that the Word of God teaches a number of truths concerning the will of God. Consider some of these truths:

1. God definitely has a will for every person’s life. God knows everything about every individual. He has a definite plan for everyone.
2. Sometimes a person must engage in a struggle before he knows what the will of God for his life is. This was certainly true of Jesus. His temptation experience was a struggle to know God’s will concerning the kind of Messiah He would be. His experience in the Garden of Gethsemane was a struggle to determine God’s will about moving on to face the cross of Calvary. We also will find times when we struggle in our desire to know and do the will of God.
3. Obeying God’s will for your life is not always the most popular thing to do. It was not for Jesus. It led Him to a cross! We may not be awarded with popularity when we commit ourselves to the will of God for us. I was responding to what I know to be God’s will for my life when I changed my course of study at Wake Forest University from pre-law to pre-ministerial, but when an adult friend in my home town heard the

news, he told me: "I am very disappointed. I was hoping that you would do something important with your life!"

4. Obeying God's will for your life is the right thing to do. Doing the right thing is always best.
5. If you will submit your life without reservation to the will of God, He will supply all your needs. He did that for Jesus and He will do that for all of us.

A Baptist pastor who always sent a personal, hand-written letter to the high school and college graduate from his church wrote the following paragraph in those letters: "I wish for you the very best in life, knowing from personal experience that the only way to live life at its best is to live in accord with God's will. Be assured of my prayer as you – throughout the course of life – seek the knowledge to know and the courage to do God's will."

The prayer of the hymn writer is an inspiration:

Have thine own way, Lord,
Have thine own way.

Thou art the potter,
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me,
After thy will.

While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.

AMEN

Reverend Phillip R. Morrow Sr.