

# the garden

The Garden Is a Place of Priority - Mark 14:32-36

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## SERMON NOTES:

### BIG IDEA:

Even though submitting to and obeying Gods will isn't always \_\_\_\_\_, it will always be \_\_\_\_\_ it! (easy, worth)

### NEXT STEPS:

1. This week, I read the events of Passion week and Jesus' journey to the cross (www.tbclife.net for reading plan)
2. This week, I will be inspired by the boldness and courage of Jesus and I too will pray daily, "Yet not what I will, but what you will."
3. This week, I will go back and listen to /watch the Guardrails: Direct Us to God's Will message and then begin to live out God's will for my in those six areas
4. This week, I will invite 5 people/families to watch TBC's online Easter Sunday worship experience at 10:30 a.m.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Just for fun, share with each other one of the best meals you've ever eaten. And, if you are meeting with your group, commit to sending each other one of your favorite recipes to cook at home to help each other spice up our extended time at home right now!
2. Pastor David said, "Sure sometimes it's easy...but most of the time, I would say that truly following and submitting to God's Will is one of the hardest things, we will ever do in life." Do you agree? If so, share together how this season has maybe brought some of that selfishness to light. (i.e. - inflexible, impatient, your reaction to change, etc.)
3. Read John 4:34-35. Jesus was saying that His food/meat was to do the will of God? Why were the disciples confused by the statement and how can we apply that passage to our lives today?
4. Read Hebrews 4:15. How does knowing that Jesus gets it, give you confidence or make you feel?
5. Spend time in prayer. Ask God what His specific will for you is this week. If you were to follow Jesus' example and boldly and courageously say YES to whatever it is God is asking of you, what would that be?

Share with those in your family/group. Ask for prayer, encouragement, and accountability from someone in your family/group and follow up next week!

## COMMENTARY:

"Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Jesus knows full well that the cross lies ahead, with the unfathomable suffering it will entail. In Gethsemane he is tempted in the same way that all of the others are tempted to abuse their responsibility to God's will for their lives. But Jesus is tempted to the extreme limit available to the satanic forces. What he endures there is unimaginable. But there is only one option for Jesus—his Father's will. Jesus is the prototypical example of one who understands God's will, wrestles with the difficulty of carrying it out, and demonstrates that petitioning God about the inevitability or necessity of his involvement in these events is not inappropriate, but who demonstrates unreserved commitment to obeying God's will.

Thus, as in the first temptations in the desert, Jesus endures temptations unique to his mission, but his obedience stands for all disciples as the premier example for our own wrestling with temptation. Our life mission, like Jesus, should consist of saying again and again to the Father, "not as I will, but as you will"....

Jesus found peace in the Garden of Gethsemane as he rested in obedience to his Father's will—and in spite of knowing that his worst battles were yet to come. We likewise will find our life's greatest peace as we rest obediently in God's will for us individually and corporately. "In His will is our peace" (Hebrews 13:20-21). (*Michael J. Wilkins, Matthew, The NIV Application Commentary [Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004]*)

## **“My food is to do the will of him that sent me.” (John 4:34-35)**

Now as food is pleasant, and delightful, and refreshing to the body of man, so doing the will of God was as delightful and refreshing to the soul of Christ: he took as much pleasure in it, as a hungry man does in eating and drinking. One part of the will of God was to assume human nature; this he had done, and with delight and pleasure: another part of it was to fulfil the law; and this was in his heart, and was his delight, and he was now doing it: and another branch of it was to suffer and die, in the room and stead of his people; and as disagreeable as this was in itself to the human nature, yet he cheerfully agreed to it; and was sometimes, as it were, impatient till it was accomplished; and he voluntarily became obedient to it: no man could, with greater eagerness, fall to eating, when hungry, than Christ went about his Father’s will and work, even that which was most ungrateful to him, as man. (*John Gill, John, Exposition of the Entire Bible*)

**The Temptations of Christ (Hebrews 4:15)** Translations of verse 15 often differ on how to understand the temptations of Jesus. The NIV says that Jesus has been tempted in every way, just as we are. This means that Jesus experienced the full range of temptations we face. The NEB speaks of Christ as one who because of his likeness to us, has been tested every way, only without sin. These translators understood that Jesus’ nature was a human nature like our own.

This was one of those passages in which the uncertainty of the meaning of the Greek left translators with a question about their wording. The translators face a choice like the one in the following sentence: “GODISNOWHERE.”

Does the statement mean that “God is now here,” an affirmation of faith? Or does it mean that “God is nowhere,” a hopeless affirmation of atheism?

Fortunately, in Hebrews 4:15 we have some additional guidance. It seems more likely that the phrase in every way refers to Jesus’ temptation and that the phrase just as we are picks up on that statement to affirm that Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are. We find much comfort in being reminded that Jesus’ experience of temptation matched our own. With an experienced Savior such as Jesus we are encouraged to come into his presence with boldness and confidence to claim the mercy and grace which we desperately need. (*Thomas D. Lea, Hebrews, Holman New Testament Commentary [Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999]*)

**Illustration from Science.** In spite of great temptation to do so, Jesus does not choose the “path of least resistance.” In physics, this phrase describes the way in which an object is most likely to move. For example, water in a river will flow downhill, pulled by gravity, moving around rocks and obstacles in its path. This phrase is also an idiom describing the way people often take the easier path in life, avoiding conflict and obstacles. Unique levels of commitment are needed to choose a path that is more difficult. In the Gethsemane narrative we get a glimpse of the difficulty of the path that Jesus takes. (*Jeannine K. Brown, Matthew, Teach the Text Commentary Series [Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, 2015]*)

# KIDS' ACTIVITY AND DISCUSSION:

## GOD'S WILL

Today, we learned that even though submitting to and obeying God's will isn't always easy, it will always be worth it! We should follow God every day. Sometimes when we walk, we leave footprints. Have your kids take off their shoes. They probably already have their shoes off, because we are having church at home :) Have your child stand on a piece of paper, and trace your child's feet with a crayon or marker. If you're really brave, you can paint the bottom of their feet and have them step on the paper. Hang their footprints in your house as a reminder for them to follow after God's will wherever they go in life.

## COMMUNION

Christians remember Jesus' death every time we have the Lord's Supper (or communion.) Our church uses small crackers and juice when we have the Lord's Supper. Because of Jesus' great sacrifice on the cross, it is important that we show respect during the Lord's Supper.

- What are the two items Jesus used to help the disciples remember Him? (bread and wine)
- Which item helps us remember that Jesus willingly gave His body to be nailed to the cross for the punishment of our sins? (crackers or bread)
- Which item helps us remember that Jesus' body bled because of that punishment? (juice)
- Why do we take communion? (to remember what Jesus did for us)
- How do you feel when you think about what Jesus did for you on the cross?

# THE ABC OF MEETING TOGETHER:

A - Ask	B - Bible	C - Commit
<p><b>Share and Pray</b>            Ask: "What's going well?"            Ask: "What's not going well?"            Facilitate conversation about real life.            Fellowship: Jumping into one another's worlds            Praise: For the good things            Prayer: For the challenges</p>	<p><b>Study and Apply Scripture</b>            Read            Re-Read            Re-tell              Go over suggested application questions above.</p>	<p><b>Discuss and Commit</b>            I will ...            How would I tell what I have learnt to someone I know?</p>
<p><b>Accountability and Support</b>            "So how did we go last week?" Look back and discuss how we went with the steps from last week. Done in a spirit of love, accountability and encouragement.</p>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do I learn about God?</li> <li>• What do I learn about us?</li> <li>• What do I feel about the story?</li> <li>• What does this teach me?</li> <li>• What do I need to obey?</li> </ul>	<p>How can we reach people outside our world?            Luke 10 + other stories of how Jesus reached people. Testimony and sharing good news.            How do I do that?            Pray and commit to pray every day</p>
<p><b>Vision Cast</b>            Answers the question "Why are we doing this?"            Lead this well as it's an important part of the process. Scripture: E.g., the Great Commission, Luke 15. Stories and testimonies</p>	<p><b>Holy Spirit Speaking</b>            Spend a bit of time waiting for the Holy Spirit to speak to us. "God, what should I do as a result of reading this?"</p>	<p><b>Pray:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the coming week</li> <li>• For the lesson learnt today</li> <li>• For those we are reaching</li> </ul>