

# Praying for God's Will

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*Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.*

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Man, it was true for me as a kid, and I'm sure it's probably true for many of you. When my parents would take me to the doctor and the pediatrician would walk in and say, "Okay, today you're getting this shot or that shot," it was never a good day, right? I did not like getting the shots. My parents would have to hold me down sometimes when I was little in order to get them.

I grew up. I can handle it now. But it was tough for me as a kid. And then, as a dad, it was tough those first couple of times taking my kids in to experience the shots, right? They're older now. Now they just sort of flex and tell the doctor, "Do your worst," right?

But when they were little, it was hard. I'd have to hold them still, and they'd get these big eyes as the doctor's coming toward them with that needle, looking at me like, "Dad, whose side are you on right now?" I'd hold them down and let the doctor do his thing. It was never a great day for them or for me.

So why would I do it? Why do you do it for your kids? At the end of the day, we think that's what's best for them, right? We love them. We care for them. We're looking out for them, and we want the absolute best.

I'll just tell you this: In the same way, there are moments in our lives when something is coming our way. Maybe it's something far worse than a shot from a doctor, but it's something big - a weighty moment, a tough moment. We see it coming, and we begin to pray to our heavenly Father, right? We look at Him with those same eyes. We're praying to our heavenly Father, saying, "No, no, no. I want something different. I don't want this to happen. Let this pass."

And there are these moments when God, in His infinite love and infinite wisdom, allows it to happen. I'm telling you, those are the tough moments of life, no doubt. Jesus faced those moments too.

As we continue our series today, Pray Like Jesus, we're going to see how Jesus handled those moments. If you take notes, and we always encourage it, our title and main idea is praying for God's will.

If you've got your Bible, I want to invite you to open with me to Matthew chapter 26.

## Learning to Pray Like Jesus

As you're turning in your Bible, I just want to give you a little recap of where we've been these past several weeks. I know that most of you guys have all of these sermons memorized week in and week out, but for those of you who are maybe new or missed one or two, here's a recap of where we've been.

In week one, as we began talking about prayer, we learned first and foremost when to pray. We saw in Scripture that Jesus prayed before anything else. So my prayer for our church family is that we would be a people who pray before the day begins. Before anything else, before the day begins, we start our days in prayer.

Well, how do we pray? Jesus taught us how to pray. We looked at that in weeks two and three as we covered the Lord's Prayer. We talked about having a seven-minute challenge where, for just seven minutes as we start our day, we pray through the Lord's Prayer, starting with:

*Our Father in heaven.*

— Matthew 6:9

So it's arms up in worship before we go hands out in requests. That's what the pattern of prayer looks like. We looked at that in weeks two and three.

Then, in week four, we started exploring specific moments of the day when we can pray. We saw that Jesus didn't just pray in times of desperation or in times of need. Jesus prayed often in moments of joy. So we learned that we can and should be joyful in our prayers.

We can be joyful over our salvation. When we think about what God is doing in our lives, man, that's a 10-second prayer of joy right there: "Father, I'm filled with joy. I'm thankful that You love me and that You've made me Your child." We can pray thankful prayers of joy when we open up God's Word, read it, know it, and understand it. That is a prayer of joy.

Then, last week, we looked at how we can pray for other people. Jesus prayed for us. We looked at the timeline last week, and we saw that as Jesus was heading to the cross, He was praying for the future church. That's you and me.

We saw what He prayed for other people. He prayed for their faithfulness and for our faithfulness, for our joy, and for spiritual protection. He prayed for sanctification - that we would be set apart and used in a way that brings glory and honor to Him. He prayed for unity, and He prayed that we would live - I just love this phrase, and I say it all the time - with our eyes up. Our focus would be on eternity, knowing that is where we are headed.

My prayer for us as a church heading into last Sunday was twofold. First, I prayed that some of us would begin praying for other people. Maybe that just hasn't been your pattern, and you saw, "Okay, Jesus prayed for other people. I need to be praying for other people like Jesus modeled praying for other people." I hope that if that was you, you began to do that last week.

The other prayer I had heading into last week was that, if needed, there would be people in this room who would begin to shift a little bit in how they prayed for other people.

A lot of times in our prayer lives, we focus on the physical. We focus on healing. We focus on finances or maybe a job. We focus on those kinds of things. That's not wrong. Hear me: That's not wrong. Jesus said:

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

— Matthew 6:11

We're taught to pray for those things. In James, we're taught to pray for healing. We are taught to pray for those things, but we also see Jesus modeling prayer for the spiritual needs of the people in our lives.

So my prayer was that if your prayers for others were exclusively, or maybe even primarily, about the physical, God would allow you to see how Jesus prayed and that you would begin praying for the spiritual needs of others as well.

If you're a Life Group teacher and you take prayer requests in your classes, this is a great teaching moment. We are praying for the spiritual needs of others as well.

This morning, as we look at the prayer life of Jesus, we're going to see what it looks like to pray for God's will in our lives. In week two, we talked about how Jesus taught us to pray:

*Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

— Matthew 6:10

In Matthew 26, Jesus walks that out. His time on earth is coming to a close. He's in the Garden of Gethsemane. He's going to be arrested as soon as this prayer ends, and still He's praying for God's will to be done.

This is a powerful moment in the Gospels. This is a weighty moment in the Gospels. I'm telling you now that this sermon is going to feel weightier than most, and that's okay, because we face these same kinds of weighty moments in life.

As we look at the text today, I want you to hear what the great Charles Spurgeon said about Matthew 26. He said, "Here we come to the Holy of Holies of our Lord's life on earth. It's a mystery like that which Moses saw when the bush burned with fire and was not consumed. No man can rightly expound a passage like this. It's a subject for prayerful, heartbroken meditation more than for human language."

Just know that as we approach this, this is a moment of magnitude in Scripture. It is impossible to adequately communicate the gravity of what's going on here in the heart and life of Jesus. So I want us to be careful to approach it prayerfully, asking that God would teach us how to pray for His will to be done in our lives as we look at Jesus praying for the will of the Father to be done in His life.

Matthew 26, starting in verse 36. Let's pick it up together:

*Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray."*

*And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled.*

*Then He said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me."*

*And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*

*And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with Me one hour?"*

*Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

*Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done."*

*And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.*

*So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.*

*Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.*

*Rise, let us be going; see, My betrayer is at hand."*

— Matthew 26:36-46

The Son of Man is His phrase for Himself.

This is a moment. If you've been on one of those trips to Israel with us or someone else, you've been in the garden where Jesus prayed. When you read this passage in the garden, knowing what happened there some 2,000 years ago, and you look across the little valley into the temple, you know that the veil, the curtain on the Holy of Holies, is going to be torn just a few hours later. It is a heavy, heavy moment in Scripture.

We read about the same moment in Mark and Luke as well. As we unpack this moment, learning to pray for the will of God in our lives like Jesus prayed for the will of God in His life, we're going to bring in some details from those Gospels as well, both Mark and Luke.

We're just going to walk through the moment. We're going to make observations as we go, and we're going to land on how we should pray.

## An Honest Request

The first observation I want you to notice as we walk through this is an honest request. Jesus makes an honest request before the Lord. Look at how that prayer starts:

*My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.*

— Matthew 26:39

He cried out to God in this moment like He taught us to cry out to God. He addresses God as Father. We see again the intimacy of the relationship and the access in the relationship.

We talked about this in weeks one and two. When we pray, we've got to remember who we're talking to. We are talking to our Father in heaven. When you're talking to your Father, man, you can be honest. A father should love you, should support you, and should be there for you.

The prodigal son story in Scripture comes to mind, where the father runs off the porch to his son. The picture we have in Scripture of our heavenly Father is a loving heavenly Father.

So hear me when I say this: You have a heavenly Father who loves you. Be honest with Him in your prayer life. You can't tell Him anything He doesn't already know.

*Where shall I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where shall I flee from Your presence?*

*If I ascend to heaven, You are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there!*

— Psalm 139:7-8

In verse 38, Jesus tells the disciples that He's sorrowful. He's troubled, even to the point of death, and He falls on His face. Clearly, there is a massive weight on His soul and His heart right now.

So when He goes to the Lord, He's honest. He doesn't say, "Heavenly Father, thank You for this day. It's been a great day. I'm looking forward to another great day tomorrow." He doesn't do that. He says, "Father, if it's possible, I don't want this. If it's possible, let this pass from Me."

I want you to really wrestle with what Jesus is asking. What's He asking to pass? Look at the text. Look at your Bible. Jesus wants the cup to pass. Three times, He prays about the cup in the garden.

Make sure you understand what the cup Jesus is referring to actually is. It is not the physical pain of death on a cross. I'm telling you now, I don't know that we could even begin to fathom what death on a cross would be like - unimaginable pain, horror, and humiliation.

Jesus was a brave man. We see that all through Scripture. He went to Jerusalem knowing that the cross was going to happen. A lot of lesser people than Him have faced death without fear, sometimes even with great joy.

An example of that is a young woman named Perpetua. She was 21 years old. She was martyred and killed for her faith in AD 203 in the city of Carthage. We have her story today because of her prison diary and because of eyewitness accounts that were written down and preserved for us.

I want you to listen to the brave words of this 21-year-old woman as she was marched to her death. She told the onlookers, as she was being marched into an arena where she was going to be killed, "If it looks like we're trembling along the way, I just want you guys to know we're trembling for joy and not for fear."

She walked in knowing what was coming physically and went with joy because it was for the sake of her Savior. The eyewitness accounts said that as these people were marching into the arena, it looked like they were marching into heaven, cheerful and bright of countenance.

When Jesus talks about the cup, He's not talking about the pain of death. The cup Jesus spoke of was the wrath of God. In the Old Testament, when we read about the cup, it is a metaphor for the wrath of God. So often, when the judgment and wrath of God are discussed, Scripture talks about the cup of the wrath of God.

In Revelation 14:10, John speaks of judgment in the end times. He talks about people drinking the wine of

God's wrath from the cup of His anger.

Jesus knew that when He went to the cross, He was going to face the full wrath of God for our sins. He would be enduring condemnation on our behalf. He knew what was about to happen, not just physically. He knew what was about to happen spiritually.

He goes to His heavenly Father honestly in prayer. We can too. He essentially says, "God, if it were up to Me, I'd love to find another way."

But this is so important. Hear me: He does not stop His prayer there. He prays honestly, but He doesn't stop there. When we pray honestly, we do not stop there. We continue the prayer.

Look at what He says:

*My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.*

— Matthew 26:39

Be honest in prayer, and then keep praying with a firm commitment to the will of God.

## A Firm Commitment to the Will of God

That's our second observation. Jesus prays honestly, and even in His honesty, He stays firmly committed to the will of God in His life.

We've got to understand that as we are committed to the will of God in prayer, the result is submission to the will of God in our lives. It flows from our prayers into our lives.

Jesus says, "Ultimately, what I want to happen, Father, even with the cup of wrath that's before Me, is for Your will to happen."

He doesn't rebel against it. He doesn't fight it. He doesn't run from it. He doesn't try to manipulate His circumstances so that He won't have to walk through it. He just prays for God's will over His own.

When He told the disciples to pray, He said:

*Your will be done.*

— Matthew 6:10

Now He's living it out, and He's letting the disciples be close enough to hear His prayers. Think about that. That's for their benefit.

They've seen Jesus pray that in the calm moments. Now they're seeing Jesus pray that very same thing in the crisis. It was for their benefit that they were there with Him in the garden. It's for our benefit that they were there with Him in the garden. They could write it down, and we could see it 2,000 years later.

This is how we pray in those moments of life. He's modeling the behavior He wants them to live out.

When He first taught them this, it was in the Lord's Prayer on a hillside. It was a quiet setting, like a classroom. There was no pressure in that moment. There was no decision that had to be made. They were just able to sit, absorb the content, learn, and wrestle with the things God was teaching them.

I like this room, right? There's no pressure here. We can sit, absorb, learn, and wrestle with things as God is teaching us. Absolutely.

But then, outside of the classroom, in the intensity of the moment, when the pressure built, Jesus stayed committed to the will of God exactly as He had taught.

Listen, that's key for us. You know that my family is around baseball pretty often. We love it. One thing that's different from when I was a kid - or maybe other kids were doing this, and that's why I was no good - is that today, a lot of kids are taking private lessons. They're doing it pretty often for pitching, hitting, and fielding.

It's fascinating what you can learn in these lessons. My kids do it, and they've got great teachers. Some of them are in the room now. You learn about launch angle, attack angle, exit velocity, bat speed, the spin on the ball, and its direction. It's incredible, the different things they've learned.

A lot of kids will get into those school environments and batting cages, work all this stuff out, and make dramatic improvements over the course of a few weeks. They will look so, so good.

But I'm telling you, you've never seen a parent more frustrated than one who has been paying for private lessons for weeks, driving their kid to those lessons, and sitting in those cages for weeks, only to see the kid get into the game and find that the weight of the moment is just too big. The pressure is too great, and the kid forgets everything they've learned and reverts to what they did before.

I said that in the first service, and my 12-year-old in the back row was trying to shield his eyes. He was like, "Dad, don't look at me right now." I'll clarify: It wasn't him I was talking about.

But we see it. The moment gets big, and people forget what they know.

Jesus doesn't do that. The weight of the moment hits, and He models what He taught. He was committed to the will of God in prayer, and then He submitted to the will of God in His life. That submission to the will of God came because that was the pattern of His prayer life.

You could say it this way for Jesus and for us: Man, the battle is won in prayer.

It is important, daily and before the day begins, to pray for the will of God like Jesus taught us to pray for the will of God. I'm telling you, if that is the pattern of your prayer life, if every day you're praying through what Jesus taught us to pray through, and if every day in these little moments you're praying for God's will to be done in your life, then when you face the crisis moments, the major moments, the heavy moments, and the weighty moments - and you're going to face them - it is going to be so much easier not to fold under pressure, but to stay committed and faithful to the will of God in your life.

If it's already the pattern of your life to pray for the will of God and submit to the will of God, that commitment will carry into those weighty moments. It is a natural progression.

I want you to see Jesus here. His first prayer is in verse 39. He says:

*My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.*

— Matthew 26:39

Then, in verse 42, the prayer shifts a little bit. I want you to notice this:

*My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done.*

— Matthew 26:42

Before, it was, "Let it pass." Now it's, "If it can't pass, if it's not going to pass unless I drink it, Father, Your will be done."

So we're moving from, "God, let it pass," to essentially, "God, give Me strength. Give Me success in drinking from this cup." The prayer has changed now to be in line with the Father's will.

I love John Piper's analysis of this. He says the second battle line was, "Father, as I drink the cup, don't let Me fail. Don't let Me fail to do Your will and accomplish the mission You've given Me here on earth."

What aligned the prayer here? Prayer happened. Prayer aligns the will.

I want you to know that as we pray before the day begins, as we pray day in and day out for the will of God to be done in our lives, God works in our hearts. God changes us, and He aligns our hearts to His will through prayer.

In Romans chapter 12, we read that we're not supposed to be conformed to the ways of the world around us. What are we supposed to be? Transformed by the renewing of our minds.

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

— Romans 12:2

A lot of that transformation comes through prayer. Romans 12 tells us that when we are transformed, we're going to know something. Do you know what we're going to know? The will of God.

Pray every day for the will of God in your life. Be transformed, and then you can know it and walk in it.

That's what Jesus does. After He prays that, He walks back to His disciples and finds them sleeping. Look at what He says:

*Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

— Matthew 26:41

He tells them to pray, knowing that their human flesh and their human strength are not enough for them to battle temptation. They're not enough for them to face these weighty moments of life and walk out the will of God. Their human, physical bodies are going to let them down.

He's saying, "Your physical strength is not enough." It takes prayer - not just prayer in the moment, but prayer that shows up again, again, and again - to carry us through these moments.

Think about what's next for these disciples. Think about how their world is radically going to shift in just a few minutes. In just a few minutes, Jesus is going to be arrested. Then, for them, it is game on.

They're going to walk through an insane week, and then an insane several years, filled with not just temptation, but heartbreak, disappointment, fear, and challenge.

Jesus knows He's launching them out on a mission - a mission that's ultimately going to change the world. He knew that their human strength wasn't going to be enough to get it done. He knew that they were going to need to be prayerfully committed to the will of God.

It's impossible for them, and it is impossible for you. It's impossible for me to stay submitted to the will of God in our lives unless we are committed to praying for the will of God in our prayer lives.

So pray, committed to the will of God.

## The Cost of Following the Will of God

As you pray this, here's the warning for you right now: You've got to know that following His will is going to come with a cost. That's our third observation - the cost of following the will of God.

When Jesus prayed, "Not as I will, but as You will," it was not a prayer without consequences. He knew that the will of God was going to take Him right into the wrath of God.

Luke 22:44 looks at the Gethsemane scene from Luke's Gospel:

*And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

— Luke 22:44

In Luke's account, he writes about this sweating of blood after Jesus prays for the second time. It's not a poetic phrase. Physically, this is really happening to Jesus here.

It's a medical phenomenon called hematidrosis, and it happens under extreme stress and pressure. The weight of the moment for Jesus, the weight of the coming wrath of God to which He has submitted, is so heavy that sweat is pouring out of Him.

I can't even imagine it. I've been stressed. You've been stressed. Many in this room have been in highly stressful situations, so much so that our bodies have begun to respond and do things they don't normally do.

I'd imagine that nobody in this room has experienced stress or a weight as heavy as this, where from the pores on your face and your head, you begin to sweat drops of blood. But that's what happens with Jesus.

That is the cost. That's the cost of what He knows He has submitted to.

Listen, we're going to face something as well. Jesus said:

*If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

— Luke 9:23

If you've ever heard someone say, "When you become a Christian, all things are good. You don't have problems anymore. You don't have stress or issues in your life anymore at all," I'm just telling you that they're directly contradicting what Jesus has taught us over and over.

As we follow the will of God, we've got to understand that, just as it did for Jesus, it's going to come with a cost.

But the benefits so far outweigh any cost. There is no comparison. Jesus is going to the cross. He is going to face the wrath of God, and because of this, because of His obedience to the will of God, I want you to look at what happens.

Philippians 2 gives us a great look ahead:

*And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

*Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

— Philippians 2:8-11

The glory is so much greater than the cost.

As Paul wrote that, he knew it. Paul said in his ministry:

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

— 1 Corinthians 11:1

He saw Jesus pay the price, and he was willing to do it too. In Philippians 3, look at what he says:

*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*

*Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*

*For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.*

— Philippians 3:7-8

Jesus submitted to the will of God. It came with a cost. He faced the wrath of God. But then He was lifted up, and He was given a name that is above every name.

There will be a point in history when every person who has ever lived or ever will live will bow their knee and declare Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father. It's going to happen.

Paul submitted to the will of God. It came with a cost. If you don't know Paul's story, it cost him his status. You could say it cost him his career. It cost him his friends. It cost him relationships. It cost him his finances. It cost him his physical health as he was beaten and often held in prison. It cost him his freedom as he was jailed. It eventually cost him his life.

Do you know what he said? "Worth it, if it means I get to know Christ."

Hear me. It doesn't matter how old you are. There are going to be seasons when something is happening in your life, and as you pray submitted to the will of God, you know that submitting to the will of God in your life is going to come with a cost.

You pay the price for it. Is it worth it? Absolutely. But know that there will be a cost.

I think in 2026, where we live in the Houston region of Texas, it's going to be one of these two costs: relational or financial. I think those are the two biggest costs that people pay where we are, where we live, and in the time in which we live for following Jesus.

We're not going to be walked into an arena like Perpetua was in AD 203. That's not going to happen. But relationally, what are we going to lose as we submit to the will of God in our lives?

There are going to be people who disagree with how we live. There are going to be people who disagree with the decisions we make, with the priorities we have, and with the truth we hold to in our lives. Because we're submitted to the will and the Word of God, we're going to lose out on some relationships.

Some will be quiet, as people drift away. Some will be loud, as people oppose us relationally.

The other cost I mentioned is finances. As we hold true to the Word and the will of God, we're going to understand that all we have is the Lord's and that we're stewards of it.

That means we might not make money the same way other people do. We're going to live with integrity according to the Word of God, and we're going to refuse to do certain things that other people do, maybe to get ahead financially in our careers or at our jobs. You're just going to be different, and it's going to cost you.

Or maybe, as you look at what you have, you're going to give more away to people who are in need because of the Word and will of God in your life. Financially speaking, it's going to cost you.

I'm telling you, it's always worth it. It's always worth it. The glory on the other side is always worth it.

## **The Company We Have in Following the Will of God**

Not only is what God has waiting on the other side worth it, but we also have this promise: You're never going to be alone as you follow His will.

That's our fourth observation - the company we have as we follow the will of God.

Jesus prays for the will of God. He submits to the will of God. He knows there's going to be a great cost to following the will of God. He's sweating blood, but He is not alone through any of it.

God sends an angel to minister to Him in His time of need:

*And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him.*

— Luke 22:43

Here's the lesson: When God says no to our requests, it doesn't mean He's abandoned us. It doesn't mean He's abandoned us. He's right there with us in the middle of it.

In the garden, the angel is there to give Him strength. Strength to do what? Not strength to run from the cup, but strength to drink from the cup. Strength to do the will of God.

Jesus makes a similar promise to you and me in Matthew 28:

*And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

— Matthew 28:20

Just know that even when you're walking through something that's going to be hard, knowing there's a great personal cost, Jesus is with you. His presence is going to give you the strength you need to do His will.

This doesn't happen only for Jesus. We read in Acts 27 that an angel is sent to Paul, protecting Paul and all those on the ship with him as it goes through a storm.

In Hebrews 1:14, we read that angels are ministering spirits God sends down from heaven to strengthen believers in their time of need:

*Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*

— Hebrews 1:14

There very well may have been many moments in your life when God sent an angel to give you strength and carry you through as you've lived out His will here on earth.

So listen: As a believer, as you submit to and follow the will of God, you're in the company of the Lord.

## The Result of Following the Will of God

Finally, our fifth observation - and we can't miss it - is the result of following the will of God.

It was God's will that Jesus would go to the cross. That was always the plan. His arrest at the end of the garden scene did not catch God by surprise.

In fact, it was prophesied by Isaiah all the way back in the Old Testament:

*Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush Him;*

*He has put Him to grief.*

— Isaiah 53:10

The cross and the wrath of God were always God's plan, but so was Easter. So was the resurrection, and so

was our salvation.

The result of the wrath of God being poured out on Jesus at the cross is our forgiveness. It is our salvation.

We need to understand that there are going to be moments when God says no to our requests, but that does not mean it's a bad outcome. That's not what happened here.

Before the cross, we're separated from God. Because of the cross and the wrath of God poured out on Jesus, now we're friends with God. Jesus endured the wrath of the Father so that we could experience the love and fellowship of the Father.

Romans 8:28 reminds us:

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.*

— Romans 8:28

The result of walking out the will of God is always good.

Now, here's the really tough part for believers: We might not always see the good right away. We might not always see the good until we step into eternity and the Father works it out and shows us His plan and what was going on.

But if we believe Scripture to be true, if we believe the Word of God to be true, we can trust, even in those moments, that God is working out all things for our good and for His glory.

So when you face those weighty moments - some of you are in them right now, and some of you might be blindsided by one of those weighty moments this week - when you face them, not if but when, face them like Jesus faced that scene in the garden.

Do what He did. Pour out your heart to God. Trust Him. Trust Him enough to submit to His will in prayer. Trust that He's going to be with you. Then trust that whatever happens, it is for our good and ultimately for God's glory.

## A Prayer of Submission

Would you pray with me this morning?

We've been practicing our prayer lives on Sundays after the message, and we're going to practice this right now.

Whatever is going on in your life, pray for God's will above all else. Pray that God would give you the strength you need.

Be honest in your prayers. Say, "Father, this is coming, and it's coming my way. I'd rather something different come my way."

Be honest before the Lord, and then finish the prayer. Say, "God, this is my preference. This is my desire. But at the end of the day, even greater and stronger than that desire is my desire for Your will to be done in my life. God, whatever that will is, I'm going to submit to it because I trust You."

Just tell Him that.

Tell Him, "God, I know that You are infinitely wiser than me. God, You see it all. I see just a little bit. God, the scope You're operating with is so much greater. Heavenly Father, I trust You. I trust Your will."

In just a second, we're going to stand and sing one last song. When we do, our prayer team is going to be down here at the front. Just know that if you're praying through one of these scenarios or situations right now and you want someone to come alongside you and pray, we would be honored to pray with you.

Maybe you've got an altogether different need. We would be honored to pray with you. Maybe you know your next step is trusting in Christ as Savior. You saw those who have done that earlier, and you want to do that. Maybe it's baptism. Our prayer team is going to be here, and we'd love to pray with you.

Heavenly Father, You're good. God, You're good. We trust You.

We know that we're going to face these moments. Many in this room are facing them now. God, we'd rather they pass, or we'd rather have a different way. But I pray that You would help us trust You enough to look to You and say, "God, not our will, but Your will be done."

God, I pray that You'd give us the strength to walk out whatever You've got in front of us. Lord, let us be a church family that looks to You in all things.

It's in Your name we pray. Amen.