



Matthew 26:31-75

THY WILL BE DONE

Trouble is a cup that all must drink in this world of sin. We are "born to trouble as the sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7). We cannot avoid it. Of all creatures, none is so vulnerable as man. Our bodies, our minds, our families, our business, our friends, are all so many doors through which trial will come in. The holiest saints can claim no exemption from it... What is the first thing to be done in time of trouble? We must pray. The first person we must turn to for help must be our God. We must tell all our sorrow to our Father in heaven. We must believe confidently that nothing is too trivial or minute to be laid before Him, so long as we do it with entire submission to His will. The words of our Lord are a beautiful example of the spirit that we should follow after in this matter. He says, "Not as I will, but as You will." He says again, "Thy will be done." Would we know whether we are born again, and growing in grace? Let us see how it is with us in the matter of our wills. Can we bear disappointment? Can we put up patiently with unexpected trials and vexations? Can we see our pet plans and darling schemes crossed without murmuring and complaint? ...These are the things that prove whether we have the mind of Christ. It ought never to be forgotten, that warm feelings and joyful frames are not the truest evidences of grace. A mortified will is a far more valuable possession. Even our Lord Himself did not always rejoice; but He could always say, "Thy will be done."

—J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)

The Passion Week. The Passover meal. The Garden of Gethsemane. The betrayal. The arrest. The trials. The beatings. The sufferings. All of it leads to the cross...to the Lamb's sacrifice for the sins of the world.

In the midst of Jesus' sorrows and sufferings (26:31-75), the spotlight turns for a moment on His disciples, specifically Peter. Peter becomes both a picture of us all and a warning to us all of the dangers of pride.

THE DANGER OF HUMAN ARROGANCE (26:31-35)

On Passover night, Jesus reveals that He will be killed, that He will be raised again, and that all of His disciples will stumble and forsake Him. Peter, in his bold self-confidence, will hear none of it.

*Even if they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away! (26:33)
Even if I must die with you, I will never deny you! (26:35)*

- Peter _____ Jesus' words.
- Peter _____ his own strength.
- Peter _____ the other disciples.

Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, that this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." (26:34)

THE REALITY OF HUMAN WEAKNESS (26:36-46)

Jesus experienced an agony and a sorrow that was so overwhelming that he sweated blood and felt like He was dying (cf. Lk. 22:44). While Jesus was going through this excruciating anguish, Peter _____.

Peter's name is mentioned in the Gospels more than any other name except Jesus. No one speaks as often as Peter, and no one is spoken to by the Lord as often as Peter. No disciple is so frequently rebuked by the Lord as Peter, and no disciple ever rebukes the Lord except Peter. God took a common man with...a vacillating, impulsive, unsubmitive personality and shaped him into a rock-like leader.

—John MacArthur, Jr.

Peter was ready to suffer martyrdom with Jesus, but he was unprepared for Jesus' voluntary self-sacrifice.

—Thomas Constable

Pride is a person having too high an opinion of himself. Pride is the first sin that ever entered into the universe, and the last sin that is rooted out. Pride is the worst sin.

—Jonathan Edwards (1703-58)

Hematidrosis is a very rare condition in which a human sweats blood. It may occur when a person is suffering extreme levels of stress, for example, facing his or her own death.

—Dr. Raksha M. Patel

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.
The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (26:41)

How do we typically respond when our human weakness is exposed?

- B _____
- A _____
- D _____
- D _____

How did Jesus respond to this painful experience of human weakness?

“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” (26:39)

What “cup” would you like God to remove from your life? What trial or burden are you facing? Are you willing to surrender to God’s will?

THE EXPERIENCE OF HUMBLE BROKENNESS (26:47-75)

As Jesus is betrayed, arrested, mistreated, mocked, and beaten, a spotlight continues to shine on Peter. Before Peter could be used by the Lord as a shepherd of His church, he needed to be broken. God stepped back and let Peter experience the reality of his weakness so that he could learn to rely fully on His power (cf. Luke 22:31-34; 2 Cor. 12:7-10).

- Peter’s perspective needed to be _____.

Peter could only see strength in power not weakness. He could only see heroism in great military or political victory not in loving self-sacrifice. He could only see his enemy as the powers without not the pride within. He could only see the Messiah as conquering King not suffering Servant.

- Peter’s pride needed to be _____.

Peter’s denial is accentuated by the fact that it is initially caused by a young servant girl (26:69-71; Mark 14:66-69; Luke 22:56; John 18:17) and it leads to the most vehement cursing and denial of Jesus (26:74). Peter is sifted like wheat so that he can bear true fruit for God’s glory.

God’s most important and most gracious act is to humble our pride.

When my human arrogance meets my human weakness then I must learn that only humble brokenness will lead to divine blessedness.

Let us remember this part of Peter’s history: it is deeply instructive to all who profess and call themselves Christians... Men fall in private, long before they fall in public. The tree falls with a great crash, but the secret decay which accounts for it is often not discovered till it is down on the ground.

—J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)

Sorrowful. Greek, *perilupos*, “to be surrounded by sorrow.”

Distressed. Grk, *ademoneo*, “full of heaviness.” It is the strongest word in the NT for depression.

Brokenness is the shattering of my self-will—the absolute surrender of my will to the will of God.

—Nancy Leigh DeMoss

In the first garden “Not your will but mine” changed Paradise to desert and brought man from Eden to Gethsemane. Now “Not my will but yours” brings anguish to the man who prays it but transforms the desert into the kingdom and brings man from Gethsemane to the gates of glory.

—D. A. Carson

Prayer is surrender—surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw a boat hook from a boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will but the aligning of my will to the will of God.

—E. Stanley Jones (1884-1973)

Our wills must be broken to His will. To be broken is the beginning of revival. It is painful, it is humiliating, it is the only way. It is being ‘Not I, but Christ,’ and a ‘C’ is a bent ‘I.’

—Roy Hession