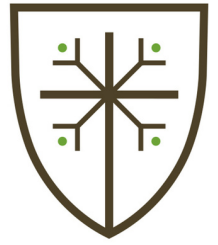


SERMON NOTES



The Lord's Prayer *Fall Sermon Series*

October 8, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

The Wrestling of Wills

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Genesis 32:22-32

1 Peter 1:6-9

Matthew 6:9-13; 16:24-29

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Jacob wrestled with God in our Old Testament passage, at what point did he realize it was God? What are the equivalents to this point in our own lives?
2. Often, we grow anxious praying for God's will to be done. Why is that?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

What does it mean to petition God that His will be done? This week, Tim looked at the last of the first set of petitions in the Lord's prayer – "Thy will be done."

Links in the Prayer

The first three petitions in the Lord's Prayer – "Hallowed be thy name," "Thy kingdom come," and "Thy will be done" - are all linked by the phrase "on earth as it is in heaven." We have to begin with heaven before we begin to worry about earth. If we don't, we find that our name, our kingdom, and our will are elevated above God's and even become equated with God's. Praise of God, lifting our gaze to heaven, puts all the petitions that follow in perspective.

There's also an order to the prayer. Last week, we saw that we praise God as King. And a king always has a will. As modern people, this makes us uncomfortable. We believe we are in control of our own life and that we ought to be. And this plays into the very definition of sin – a spiritual power that drives us to grasp after things and demand control. This very quickly gives birth to anxiety, which Tim Keller defined as "the desire to control that which we can't but think that we ought to be able to." When it comes down to it, either God is competent enough to rule our life or we are.

Paradox of Faith

The last link in this part of the prayer is between God's will and our daily bread. We will never know our true needs until we begin to submit our lives to God's will. The paradox lies in the fact that God's will is two-fold – his revealed will and his secret will. The cross of Christ was THE secret thing of God that became the greatest of revealed things. And when we pray the Lord's prayer, we're asking for his revealed will, that we would submit to him in our lives and commit to follow him.

The difficulty is that it is often when God's secret will for us includes things of severe mercies and difficulties that our faith in his revealed will grows. As Paul says, through "the genuineness of our faith" God's revealed will is accomplished through his secret will. If we bend everything to our own will, we die. But in losing, in submitting to the will of God, we truly live.