

## Lesson Four

### Thy Will Be Done

#### Introduction:

We have seen God as our source and called Him "Our Father." We have seen Him as sacred and said, "Hallowed be your name." We have talked about God's sovereignty and prayed, "Your Kingdom come." Tonight, we will see God as superior and pray, "Thy will be done."

Our passion in this prayer for the holy glory of God, the advancement of God's Kingdom and the realization and manifestation of God's will.

Obviously, God will eventually arrange everything according to His will. However, that is not happening now. Our prayer is that it will happen.

This prayer is valuable for two reasons: (1) God has a will of His own and (2) He wants me to participate in it.

God has a will, an opinion. **Doxa** is the root word from which we get our word **doxology** which means "**opinion**." There is nothing more important than God's will because the will of God reveals His glory.

Jesus is requesting that we acknowledge that God has a will. We are asked to respect that will and want it to be carried out.

Scripture bears out that (1) God is independent from us; He has a will of His own without our input and (2) God thinks for Himself. God has a plan that has been drawn up from the foundations of the earth.

1. "I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that please" (Isaiah 46:10).
2. "When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be" (Psalm 139:15-16).

#### **The Revealed Will of God**

- A. The will of God is to be understood in two ways: (1) His revealed will, and (2) His secret will. The revealed will is the Bible.
- B. There are two Greek words that are translated "word."
  1. **Logos** and **rhema**.
  2. A **rhema word** is a prophetic word, a word of knowledge.
- C. We esteem God's glory more by seeking His will in His Word. This is the best way to know God's will.

## The Secret Will of God

- A. This refers to the details of God's plans that He ordered before creation.
  - 1. It refers to God's wisdom, His unrevealed plans, where we will be five years from now, the exact date of His coming and when the Holy Spirit will come in unprecedented power.
  - 2. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways (Isaiah 55:8).
  - 3. "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will" (Ephesians 1:11).
  - 4. The revealed word (Bible) reveals that there is a secret will.
  - 5. The problem comes when we try to seek out God's secret will without getting to know His revealed will.
  - 6. "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children" (Deuteronomy 29:29).
- B. A **rhema word** usually refers to God secret will.
  - 1. "This man Jesus was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge" (Acts 2:23).
  - 2. "They did what your (God's) power and will had decided beforehand should happen" (Acts 4:28).
- C. Sometimes the two overlap.
  - 1. "The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will" (Acts 22:14." Ananias was referring to God's secret will for Paul.
  - 2. Ananias meant that the Holy Spirit was going to reveal the truth of God's word to Paul, which he had not grasped before.
  - 3. There is no greater gift.
- D. The secret will of God is more interesting and sensational, but the revealed will of God should be our fundamental search. The secret will of God will become clear to us when we need to know it.

## The Will of God in the Lord's Prayer

- A. Jesus is teaching us to pray for both the revealed will of God and the secret will of God.
  - 1. We should pray that the truth of God as revealed in Scripture should be carried out.
  - 2. We should also pray that God's secret plans should be carried out in His time.
  - 3. It is a prayer for the success of God promises in His Word and His purposes in the world.
- B. Praying this prayer means we accept His will. This means we approve of it, honor it.
  - 1. Whatever He has in mind – do it now – the sooner the better.
  - 2. My ambitions lie in ashes at His feet.
- C. It is not always easy to know the next step in knowing the secret will of God.
  - 1. In the O.T. they cast lots.

2. The Holy Spirit taught them.

### **The Accomplishment of God's will on Earth**

- A. We want to see is the accomplishment of God's will.
  1. Wanting what He wants.
  2. We want no resistance to His will.
- B. The Lord's Prayer gives us a mandate to pray that the will of God will be done here like it is in heaven.
- C. The question is, should we pray for what will never be accomplished on earth until the end of the world. The answer is YES!
  1. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20-21).
  2. So yes, we keep praying for that which is not answered yet.

### Conclusion:

- A. Wrong attitudes in prayer
- B. Right attitude in prayer
- C. Everything in heaven is done according to God's will but not here, yet. But we must not accept anything less than His will.