

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (John 4:34)

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ God's will unfolds for those who seek to do His Will

God's will is not a detailed road map but slowly unfolds in the situation. Jesus said: *By Myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for I seek not to please Myself but Him who sent Me (John 5:30)*. By ourselves, we can do nothing of lasting good. If we sincerely seek to do God's will, we have to be closely attuned to God who can speak to us in many ways. God the Father is always communicating with His Son, Jesus because Jesus has only one intention: to carry out the Father's will. Even for Jesus, the Son of God, He needs to be in constant communication with God the Father in order to carry out the specifics of His will. That's why Jesus said: I judge only as I hear from the Father on how to judge. This is the reason Jesus spent much time in prayer when He was in the flesh, carrying out His saving mission on earth. Often, He would withdraw to quiet places to pray to His Father (cf. Luke 5:16). So closely united to the Father, Jesus said: My Father and I are One! (John 10:30). Besides a strong desire to seek God's will, a frequent and intimate communication with the Lord is necessary in order to discern His holy will.

God provides supernatural help for those who are doing His will. Jesus suffered greatly in the Garden of Gethsemane on that Thursday night just before He was arrested. He could see all the sins of the world and how they filled Him with such sorrow! He could see souls that will reject Him even after His Sacrifice on Mt Calvary. He could see how useless His Sacrifice will be for those unrepentant souls that reject His love and mercy. His heart was filled with a level of sorrow not felt by any human heart. As a result, Jesus sweated blood due to the tremendous stress He was undergoing. *And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground (Luke 22:44)*. But as soon as Jesus prayed that God's will be done, not His, God the Father sent an angel to strengthen Jesus (cf. Luke 22:42-43).

God provides His heavenly peace to those who do His will. When He was arrested, Jesus offered no resistance but went peacefully. On the cross, while dying an agonizing and shameful death, Jesus prayed to His Father: *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* (Luke 23:34). Although Jesus was in physical agony, He was in heavenly peace, having accomplished the will of the Father. In the case of Mary, after She said Her "fiat" to Archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation, She did not dwell on the real dangers of becoming an unwed mother but went off immediately to help Her cousin Elizabeth in her advanced stage of pregnancy. *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You (Isaiah 26:3)*. Only God can give perfect lasting peace.

God is most glorified when His will is carried out. Jesus could have won great admiration for God by performing the most spectacular of miracles on earth. Nothing was beyond His power as God the Father has subjected everything under dominion to His Son, Jesus. Everything that belongs to the Father belongs to the Son. The mission of Jesus in coming to earth is solely to carry out His Father's will, to redeem the world by saving souls. By coming in the flesh as a little vulnerable human baby born of poor parents, submitting to the parental authority of Mary and Joseph and saving the world through His own blood, pain and suffering, Jesus gives more glory to the Father than He would have by performing the most spectacular of miracles. *To keep the law is to make many offerings; whoever observes the commandments sacrifices a peace offering (Sirach 35:1-2)*. *If you love Me, keep My commandments (John 14:15)*.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, by Your own action, You have proved that seeking out God's will is the primary objective of my life. Carrying out God's will may not be easy sometimes. Carrying out God's will may involve an overcoming of my own desires, inclinations, aspirations, ego, pride, fears, stepping out of my comfort zone and appearing different from the crowd. However, You promise that I will never be tested beyond my limits (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13). Give me the holy wisdom to understand that only in Your will can I find real fulfillment, peace and security. It is also the surest and safest shortcut to the inheritance You have prepared for me in heaven. Mary, Mother of Salvation pray for me for the grace of fidelity to God's will. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.