



NOT MY WILL, *But Yours be done.*

LUKE 22:42

It all started and ended in a garden. About 2000 years ago, Jesus faced His most crucial moment, as He in great agony prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. In that garden, something decisive happened that defined our destiny forever. Before we look at what happened there, let's first see what happened in another garden at the very beginning, namely in the Garden of Eden.

In that garden "God created man in His own image" (Gen. 1:27) and "breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7). You and I are spiritual beings. Our physical body where our spirit dwells, will die but our spirit will continue to exist all eternity. From the beginning on, God has wanted a friendship with us that lasts forever, and His greatest desire is to bring every person into this special, personal relationship (1. Tim 2:4). God has a will, and this is His will for us. When He created us, He also gave us a will. He loved us so much that when He created man, he didn't want to make a robot, which He will control, but an individual with a free will. God is a gentleman and He never forces Himself on anyone. So He gave us the freedom of choice.

In the middle of the Garden of Eden, there were two trees – the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God gave Adam and Eve full permission to eat from every tree except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for that would cause them to die. But as we know, man's will was put to test, and Adam faced the choice: *Do I obey God and eat only from the trees He allowed us to eat or do I choose to use my free will, disobey God and eat from the tree that brings death?* We read that Eve was deceived by the devil but Adam consciously used his own free will and chose to disobey God. It took a long time till Adam and Eve died physically, but the very moment they disobeyed God, they died spiritually. I can imagine that Adam saw what happened to Eve when she took the fruit, how the glory of God left her and death entered her spirit.

Yet, he still decided to partake in that deadly sin, fully understanding what he was doing. They had the perfect environment, the perfect relationship with God, which all must have been more than satisfying. And yet, he decided to disobey. How foolish the choice and how high was the price of his will! Adam's will for disobedience brought along death, just as God had said. It brought spiritual death for the whole mankind. Sin entered the world and we were cut off from that harmonious, beautiful relationship with God, our Creator. Before all this, there was a seamless, glorious connection between God and man. But the moment Adam decided to do his own will against God's will, this bond was broken, there was a total blackout in the spirit of man, God's glory departed from them, a war in the heavenlies began, and this war over our will between good and evil, life and death has been raging in the world ever since. This is the tragedy that happened as man placed his will above the will of God. And still today, countless individual lives are in turmoil and chaos because of man's desire to constantly choose his own will instead of the will of God.

But God in His love had a solution for our hopeless situation. The Bible says in Romans 5:19 *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."* Adam was the first man who got us all in trouble. Jesus the Son of God, was the second and the last man, who came to solve our dilemma. The Bible says in 1. Cor. 15:45 *"The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."* Jesus had to become man, die for us on the cross, take our sin upon Himself, redeem us, give us a new spirit so that our relationship with God the Father can be restored and that we can live with Him eternally.

In the first garden, man failed because he chose his will above God's. In the second garden, Jesus fought the same battle of wills but chose the will of His Father above his own, defeated the devil and won a victory, incomparable to anything else.

The Bible says, Jesus *“was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”* (Hebr. 4:15). In Gethsemane, Jesus used His choice of free will just as you and I can use ours, and despite the temptation and agony He went through, He chose to do the will of His Father. Luke 22:41-42 reads: *“He knelt down and prayed, saying, **“Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS, be done.”***

What cup was He taking about? I believe, He was referring to the terrible moment of separation from the Father that came upon Him as He was hanging on the cross, and the weight of all the sins of the world came upon Him, and He cried, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* (Matt. 27:46). In Gethsemane, Jesus knew that He soon would go through immeasurable pain and humiliation, which would be too much for any human being to bear. But I believe, that the very thing he dreaded more than all the torture and physical pain as He prayed in such anguish so that His sweat turned to blood, was the thought of *“becoming sin for us ... so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2 Cor. 5:21) He knew that sin meant separation from God the Father, and the very thought of it was more terrifying to Him than anything else. As He struggled, He maybe asked – *“Is there any other way Father? I just don't want to be separated from You.”* But there wasn't and so He yielded and chose the will of the Father.

He did the exact opposite of what the first Adam had done, and by that brought us eternal blessing. He went the whole way to the cross, and as He hung there, our sins were placed on Him, and the Bible says in Mark 15:33 that *“darkness fell over the whole land”*. A total blackout, as at the beginning in the Garden of Eden in the spiritual sense when sin cut the connection between God and us, now manifested in the physical realm. In that hour of darkness, when the Jews were at their homes slaughtering their Passover lamb, Jesus the perfect Lamb of God, died and gave His life on the cross for the whole mankind so that our dead spirit can become live again. He fulfilled the will of the Father, finished His mission and set us free from the bondage of sin. The key to this victory and our blessing lies in the obedience to the will of the Father. The battle of the will that led to the choice of disobedience, began in the first garden, and brought a curse

upon the whole mankind. The battle of the will that led to the choice of full obedience, ended in the last garden, and brought blessing, salvation and life that is available today for everyone, including you and me. The tree with the forbidden fruit that Adam took, only offered failure, condemnation and disconnection. The tree where Jesus gave his life - the cross - offers us victory, forgiveness and restoration still today.

Maybe today, you are in “your personal garden” where a war is waging between your will and God's. You know that His will is good but might cost you something, will be challenging, means sacrifice or takes you to the unknown. Your own will seems much easier and more comfortable than the will of God that requires surrender, stepping out of the comfort zone and picking up your cross. My friend, whatever God is asking of you today, whatever situation and decision you're facing, remember that blessing and reward is only found in the very center of His will, not in ours. *“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”* (Deut. 30:19). Choose the will of God, choose life today! Doing His will is the path that leads through Gethsemane and takes us to our personal cross that He is inviting each of us to carry, but as we do so, resurrection power, life in abundance and heavenly blessings will follow us all the days of our life. His will is the happiest, safest and the most fruitful place on earth. Will you yield to Him today and say: **“Father, not My will, but Yours, be done!”**



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