

The Fifth Week of Lent

Sunday, April 3

Jeremiah 42:1-6

Then all the commanders of the forces, and Johanan son of Kareah and Azariah son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least to the greatest, approached ²the prophet Jeremiah and said, 'Be good enough to listen to our plea, and pray to the LORD your God for us—for all this remnant. For there are only a few of us left out of many, as your eyes can see. ³Let the LORD your God show us where we should go and what we should do.' ⁴The prophet Jeremiah said to them, 'Very well: I am going to pray to the LORD your God as you request, and whatever the LORD answers you I will tell you; I will keep nothing back from you.' ⁵They in their turn said to Jeremiah, 'May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act according to everything that the LORD your God sends us through you. ⁶Whether it is good or bad, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, in order that it may go well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.'

There is only a remnant of Israel left and they desire to leave, escape the war and destruction. They look to the Prophet Jeremiah for guidance. After 10 days in prayer, Jeremiah shares the God wants the remnant to remain.

They said they would do whatever God willed. But the answer was NOT what they desired to hear.

Would you follow God's will even if it was not what you desired for your life?

Pray "Father God, not my will, but your will be done."

Monday, April 4

Psalm 143:9-10

⁹ Save me, O LORD, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge.

¹⁰ Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

The psalmist pleads with God to save him from his enemies. He also understood that God's will was something that must be seen in our actions. Did God want the psalmist to seek forgiveness instead of revenge or love instead of hatred?

Pray "Father God, not my will, but your will be done."

Tuesday, April 5

John 9:30-31

³⁰The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

Jesus had opened the eyes of a blind man, yet the religious leaders were skeptical because they believed that blindness was caused by sin and only God could forgive sin and heal the infirmed. And Jesus could not be God.

We are all sinners. Yet, our scripture tells us God listens to us because we worship and obey his will.

Do we always worship and obey God's will? No, but because of Jesus's sacrifice we know that God listens to us despite our sin. However, we may be frustrated in our prayer life if we do not seek to hear and respond to God's will when we seek guidance in prayer.

Pray "Father God, not my will, but your will be done."

Wednesday, April 6

Philippians 4:15-19

15 You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. ¹⁶For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. ¹⁷Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account. ¹⁸I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Is the Apostle Paul saying that the Philippians will be rewarded by God for their faithful stewardship in supporting him and his ministry? Notice Paul tells the church at Philippi that God will satisfy EVERY NEED, not EVERY WANT.

Faithful stewardship in all of life does please God, but it does not mean that God will reward us with many worldly possessions. In our prayer life we seek to listen and learn what God desires for us to do.

Pray “Father God, not my will, but your will be done.”

Thursday, April 7

I Thessalonians 5:15-22

¹⁵See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

Give thanks in all circumstances because this is the will of God! I do not think so!!! In the midst of anger, grief, fear, loneliness, doubt we may turn away from fear because we know that our prayers would be filled with those feelings, which we feel are not acceptable to God.

God wants to hear ALL prayers. We can only learn to give thanks in all circumstances when we have had the courage to scream at and question our God because of the darkness we are feeling.

Pray “Father God, not my will, but your will be done.”

Friday, April 8

James 4:3

³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend what you get on your pleasures.

So often we feel our prayers are not answered. Is it because we have asked selfishly, only desiring to satisfy our wants? We pray for the healing of a loved one, because we do not desire to let them go. Yet, we know that they are not able to be the person they once were. We pray for the family feud to end. Yet, we are unwilling to take the first step towards reconciliation. We pray for a new car, when a used one would do. What have your prayed for recently that truly was to satisfy a pleasure?

Pray “Father God, not my will, but your will be done.”

Saturday, April 9

I John 5:14

14 And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

If we ask in accordance with his will, he hears and answers. The key to understanding this verse is that for what we ask must be in accordance with God’s will.

God does not always answer quickly or clearly. I believe our Creator waits until we have listened longer in order that our will might become his.

Pray “Father God, not my will, but your will be done.”