

# Day 10 – *January 22*

**Mike Hicks**

**Your Will Be Done**

**Key Verse: Matthew 26:39, 42**

**Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” 42 He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” Matthew 26:39, 42**

We can read over that very quickly, but it's important to take a moment to let it sink in. 'Not my will but your will be done'. What is a will? Our will is our ability to make choices that determine our behaviours despite what is going on around us. That is important to hear. We can and in fact should be making choices that are positive despite what is happening to us.

There is a lot of talk in our culture about willpower (usually as it relates to our diet and health). The definition of willpower is the choice to delay immediate gratification, resisting short-term temptations to meet long-term goals. In other words, for this context, we say no to our selfish desires to further the kingdom of God. To make good choices we need to surrender our lives to God. That is an easy statement to write and to read but it can be very difficult to figure out what it means and then live it out.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 16:24-25, “if any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”

We need to surrender our choices, our time, our dreams, our desires. When we honour God with our life choices, He will bless our lives. My wife, Martha always tells me, you can't outgive God, and we can't. We may seem like we are giving up a lot, but we gain so much more.

You may be struggling with an addiction, a bad habit? Wasting time on things not of God? This doesn't mean we are necessarily involved in a 'bad thing'. Our choice could be anything as simple as watching too much tv? Spending too much time shopping or watching sports? Any area of our lives that we have not given God permission to be Lord over is an area we need to examine. We should be spending our time on things that further God's kingdom. This journey begins with denying yourself and your instant gratification, for His glory. Once you make the first step it will get easier! Our desires grow as we feed them.

Having faith in God and a relationship with Him is the first and greatest need we have. If you want God to meet your needs, you need to believe what He says in His Word. Be generous with others, be generous with your words, your time, your talents, and be generous with your resources. What you believe determines how you behave. Jesus believed His father when God said the only sufficient sacrifice for our sin was a sinless life (that of Jesus himself). In Gethsemane he reached the point of decision in the garden and chose to surrender His will to His Father. Jesus gave EVERYTHING for you. Will you give everything for Him?

Here are a few habits to reflect on and start as you surrender your life to God:

- Get into the habit of reading God's Word (the Bible) every day.
- Pray for your family, our church, our country, your friends. (Driving in your car is a great time to pray).
- Give of your finances. 10% is what God spoke of as the tithe (study about tithing). Start with that, 10% of your income back to God.
- Be grateful for the blessings in your life (starting with the fact that you can be in relationship with God because of what Jesus did on the cross).
- Encourage one person every day
- Memorize scripture
- Dance before the Lord with worship music playing loudly.
- Find a way to serve a single parent or a child who needs help in your community
- Tell God you love Him out loud
- Talk with others about what God has done for you
- Love your spouse (honour your spouse and their desires)
- Husbands, lead your family well. Be the spiritual leader in your home (this is a very important responsibility)

## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

What have you experienced when you surrendered your will to God instead of following your own desires?

What have you yet to surrender to God? Will you ask him for help?

What spiritual disciplines can you incorporate in your daily life?

## **PRAYER:**

Jesus, thank you. You gave the greatest gift you could give, when by an act of your will you chose to surrender your life for all of mankind. You sacrificed your life for people who by their own will may or may not choose the freedom you provided, yet you did it anyway. Help me to follow your example with the guidance of Holy Spirit in all areas of my life.