

To Do the Father's Will, the Father's Way – Luke 22:35-53

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Introduction

Many definitions but I think this one fits our time the best. "intense, driving, or overmastering feeling or conviction"

When friends don't understand (v. 35-38)

35 And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing." 36 He said to them, "But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one.

Here in verses 35 and 36 we see a massive change in the way the disciples were to travel about. Jesus asks if they lacked anything when he sent them out with no money, no food, and no shoes. They answer, simply, "Nothing". We didn't lack anything. Right. They didn't. He actually gave the command twice here in the book of Luke. Once in Luke 9:3 where *"he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics."* And again in Luke 10:4 when he said, *"Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road."* Now, when the Lord is this specific and he repeats himself, you know it's important. These disciples were well aware of these commands and they had followed them. I bet they remembered very clearly being told to head out on an unknown journey with not so much as a second tunic, or quarters for the laundrymat. Now Jesus points out the fact that when he commands something, he also provides the means by which to obey the command. They had gone out with nothing and nothing had they needed. Now, however things are changing and this should set off alarms in the disciples heads. Why the change? Why now? Why swords? It was, "take nothing", to "take everything" and add a weapon to your travel items. If these questions were in their heads, they should have listened for the answer. Perhaps they did, but only partially.

Jesus will explain why in verse thirty-seven. God's word says this,

37 For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

"And he was numbered with the transgressors". When the disciples heard that quote they would have know where it came from. Unfortunately it doesn't look like they went back and read the whole passage to understand what he was saying. As good Bible readers though you know that when you see a quote like this you should go to the passage being quoted. It's not often that the speaker only wants you to see the quote alone. So, you should go back and read the entire portion of Scripture that the quote points to. Our quote comes from Isaiah fifty-three. God's word says this in verse twelve,

*Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.*

Now perhaps they only thought of this verse from Isaiah fifty-three. Especially the part where he says "he poured out his soul to death". We'll see in the next paragraph that they know something big is going to happen and they are sorrowful. But we'll also see that they didn't understand all of what Jesus was getting at. Here in this paragraph we see they didn't understand the gravity of the reference by thier

reaction to it. God's word says this in verse thirty-eight.

38 And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

Can you picture in your mind what is happening here? Jesus has done two things, he has told them the times are a changin' and he has dropped the bombshell that he is the fulfillment of Isaiah 53! This is huge. This is earthy shattering. We don't have time to read all of it, I would encourage you to do that later today, but just listen to some quotes from Isaiah 53. God's word says this,

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;"

"and as one from whom men hide their faces / he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

"Surely he has borne our griefs / and carried our sorrows;"

"yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted."

"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;"

"and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;"

"Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief;"

He has just told his disciples that this is who he is and what do they say? Well, they are still stuck on the sign that something big was coming. "Look Lord we found two swords". Can you hear a bit of a sigh as our Lord says, it is enough. Yes, he will face this trial alone, but couldn't they at least hear him out and try to grasp the magnitude of the situation they find themselves in? Apparently not.

Jesus, knowing how difficult this will be for himself, nonetheless, looks to prepare his disciples for what is to come and they cannot even be bothered to take it all very seriously. They are majoring on swords when the Son of Man has just told them God will crush him!

Jesus' passion is to do the Father's will even when His friends do not understand.

When paths are dark (v. 39-46)

We move on to our next paragraph. God's word says this,

39 And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him.

40 And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Notice first in our two verses that this was "his custom". What was? Going out to the Mount of Olives to pray.. But before he gets to his prayers he tells the disciples to "pray that you may not enter into temptation". The question to ask here is what temptation. Often we gloss right over things like this, but Jesus is going to say it twice. Once here at the beginning of our paragraph and once at the end. We have a prayer sandwich here and we should be asking ourselves why it's important. Further anytime you see a sandwich, something at the beginning and end of a paragraph or larger portion of text you should immediately be drawn to the meat of the sandwich. The bun, the beginning and end, are important, but the meat, the middle of the sandwich is the point. So, remember our question. What temptation are they to pray about? And let's dive into the meat of this sandwich and get to the point.

God's word says this in verses forty-one through forty-four,

41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

Jesus moves away from his disciples to be alone and he'll kneels down to pray. Is it a must that you remove yourself from others to pray. No, after all, he just left the disciples to pray together. Is kneeling down to pray the only, or most spiritual way to pray. No, we have many texts in our Bibles where the stance of the person praying is not mentioned. So why tell us these details? Could it be that we are being prepared for what is about to happen as well? Jesus is not going to the cross with the disciples. He will go alone. Further, he will not go to the cross with any kind of pride, he will humbly go, as he is humbly knelt down in prayer. Here in verse forty-one we have a physical picture of the Spiritual reality that is being played out. We are to see our Savior humble and alone on his way to the cross. Isaiah fifty-three fills his mind. What does he do when he is alone and humble on this dark path to the cross?

God's word says this in verse forty-two through forty-three,

[Jesus] knelt down and prayed 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

We should note first that Jesus is not looking forward to what is about to happen. Other places in scripture we see that he "endured the cross". Make no mistake, Jesus willing goes to the cross, but he is not seeking out the pain and suffering that he will endure. Here he even asks The Father to remove this cup. What cup? The cup of Isaiah fifty-three. The cup that has as it's contents the "Lord...[laying] on him the iniquity of us all". We often make much of the physical pain Jesus would bare on the cross, but it is only a picture of the unimaginable Spiritual pain he will endure as "the Lord...[crushes] him...[putting] him to grief"!

Next is where Jesus stands over all else, he states his request and immediately says, "*Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.*" Is suffering something anyone looks forward to, No!, but we can look forward to this, this submission of our will to that of God's. Jesus our example in all of life gives up his desires in obedience to the Father. We should do the same, but to often we say the words and expect instant relief from the suffering we are under and give up on obedience. That is not what happens here.

43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

The fight continues. Jesus is at war. This is what Spiritual Warfare looks like. This has to be one of the most powerful portion of Scripture there is. As Jesus is praying an angel appears to him! And to what end does this angel appear. To strengthen him. Yes, he'll go to the cross alone, but the Heavens are on his side! As he prays the angel gives him the strength to continue the battle of prayer. He receives strength in forty-three and though he's in agony he "prays more earnestly". What does "more [earnest] prayer look like? It looks like "*sweat [becoming] like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*" It is exactly as we learned from Hebrews 12:4 last Sunday morning. Jesus, in his "struggle against sin...resisted to the point of shedding his blood". He has physically gone to war - look at his posture, and he has spiritually gone to war - listen to his prayer. Remember all those verses about warfare. This is it! This is what it looks like to be an overcomer. So pray Christian, pray with all your heart in every situation and when it doesn't go as you would like, "*Humble yourself...under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*" Let Jesus be your example.

Earlier, Jesus, encouraged his disciples to pray that they may not enter into temptation. He has gone to

war in prayer and instructed his disciples to do the same. What will they do? God's word says this in verses 45 and 46,

45 And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, 46 and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Jesus rises up from his knees and turns to walk back the "stone's throw" distance to the disciples after being engaged in an intense Spiritual battle and what does he find? He finds them asleep. Not sweating blood, but counting sheep. Notice what it says there at the end of verse 45, it says they were "sleeping for sorrow". Two things are happening here. Number 1, they clearly do not fully understand what is happening in Isaiah 53. If they did they would have seen that "*he was pierced for OUR transgressions and crushed for OUR iniquities*". This recognition would have caused them to rejoice for themselves and pray earnestly for their friend and Savior. Instead, all they seem to have grasped from Jesus' reference is that their friend was going to die. Faced with such a trial we see a stark difference between the disciples' reaction and Jesus'. Jesus headed straight to his Father for strength to endure what he knew was coming. The disciples, overcome with sorrow, did what many of us do, they headed for bed. When life is overwhelming we often seek to mute the world with some distraction - be that drink, sport, or in this case, sleep. They would have been given strength from on high had they turned to God for the help needed. Instead they, full of sorrow, did not pray for strength to avoid the temptation and as we'll find out soon enough they fell to that temptation rather spectacularly.

Jesus' passion is to do the Father's will even when paths are dark.

What is this temptation the disciples face? We'll find our answer in the next paragraph. God's word says this in verses 47 and 48.

When friends betray (v. 47-53)

47 While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Notice first that our "*man called Judas*" has gone from being a follower of Jesus to being a leader of those who would arrest and kill him. Such a complete transformation has occurred that he is referred to, not as a disciple, but as only, "*one of the twelve*". And in contrast to Jesus, who will go alone to face his future, Judas has come with a crowd - as cowards do.

And in one of the most ironic acts of war ever committed, Judas leans in to kiss him. A symbol of affection, honor, and care is used to betray the man you have called friend for the last three years at least. Jesus responds, not with hatred, a violent slap, or spitting at him, but with a simple question - as he often responded to his critics and those who hated him. Simply, humbly he responds to the act of war with an act of kindness. A question to expose the heart of the sinner who is close enough to hear breath.

Imagine this scene, you stand inches from your creator and look to kiss him with the very lips he created and allows to continue in existence. You look into the eyes of the man you have witnessed healing all kinds of maladies, feeding thousands and thousands of people. You have seen the crowds. Witnessed the miracles. Heard his wisdom and here you stand, ready to betray him and give him up to those who would slaughter him. Please church, please rid yourself of the notion that seeing miracles or being with Jesus face to face would have changed anything in any one's life. People are not changed by what they see with their eyes, but by the sight given by God to their souls. If the former were true, Judas would be

kissing his feet in reverence, not his cheek in an act of treason.

How will our disciples react to their friends' treachery? They know Jesus is headed for death and they know Judas is the betrayer even if they cannot hear this exchange between him and Jesus. We're about to find out how they will react. God's word says this in verses 49 through 51.

49 And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. 51 But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

I know as a young believer I often sided with the ear chopper in these verses. I thought to myself, if this was my innocent friend standing next to me and someone came to take him away to death and I had way to stop them. I would! Please forgive my immaturity in thinking like the disciples. Brothers and sisters they have fallen to the temptation they were instructed to be praying against. They have looked at this war as a fleshly one. Remember the call to war in Ephesians six, "*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*" and again in 2 Corinthians 10, "*For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,*". This is how we are supposed to fight and they did not. We are to go to war as Jesus did, by praying until we sweat something like great drops of blood, calling on Heaven for strength and the ability to obey when the time comes. Our war is not of the flesh but of the Spirit and we cannot fight it in the flesh, but we must fight in the Spirit lest we fall to the same temptation the disciples did, cutting of ears and not realizing we ourselves are the ones who won't hear.

Jesus calls out "no more of this" to the disciples, and to us. No more of this war in the flesh. I will fight and die, but in my dying I will be victorious over the grave. That, can only be done, in the Spirit, not in the flesh. And as if to show everyone how you win the war, Jesus reaches over to the injured man, close enough to hear him breathe, touches his ear and heals him. What a warrior! What a King! What a Savior!

After addressing the violence of the disciples, Jesus turns to address the would be violence of the crowd come to take him away. God's words says this in verse 52-53,

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? 53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Notice again the simple question he asks. He has just demonstrated, rather vividly, that he is not about violence and asks them why they are. He further questions their place and timing of this ambush. He was in the temple day after day. Why not take me from God's house while it's light outside? Why now, why here under the cover of darkness? Without giving them time to answer he provides it for them. Remember who these people are. They are "chief priests, officers of the temple and elders". And he tells them this is their hours AND the power of darkness. The religious leaders of the day have taken their stand at night, away from the temple, with weapons of the flesh and their strength comes not from an angel but is the power of darkness. They have gone to war, and they are on the side of the Devil himself.

Jesus' passion is to do the Father's will even when friends betray Him.

Conclusion

Listen once again to the words of Isaiah. Jesus' passion to do the Father's will has done this for you Christian, *"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."* Christian, you have been given peace and healing through the obedience of Jesus Christ to his Father in Heaven. He is your example and he has walked a road many times more difficult than yours. He walked that road on his knees in humble prayer to the Father. He fought the Spiritual war for obedience dressed in the full armor of God. Will you do the same? What is your fight today? Will you live a warriors life of prayer that you might obey and give glory to our mighty God and King who has gone before us. I pray you will. I pray the rest of us don't fall asleep on you, but give ourselves to blood sweating kinds of prayers on your behalf.

If you are here this morning and you have never given you life to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior I would like you to listen to Isaiah as well. God's word says this to you, *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;* This is you my friend. You have gone astray. You have turned to your own way and given little if any thought to the ways of God. You have no peace. Your iniquities are your own. Your transgressions are yours to pay for. What hope do you have that on the day you die, and you will die, that you'll be able to manipulate God into being your friend - after a lifetime of being his enemy. I stand here today to tell you by the authority of God's word you have no hope to be his friend apart from seeking his forgiveness for your sin and giving your life to Christ. Then and only then will Isaiah ring true for you, *"and the Lord has laid on him (that being the Lord Jesus Christ) the iniquity of us all."* May that be true of you this morning.