

[38] Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." [39] And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." [40] And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? [41] Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." [42] He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

[Matthew 26:38-42]

I am sure that you all recognize Today's introductory text as being the Lord's praying in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest and crucifixion. Here Jesus' humanity is seen when He prays, "*My SOUL IS DEEPLY GRIEVED, to the point of death*". Even though the prospect of death by crucifixion *DEEPLY GRIEVED* Jesus' in His humanity; listen to Jesus the Son's plea to the Father in Heaven in Matthew 26:39. Here Jesus, prays,

"My Father, if it is possible, LET this cup pass from Me; yet **NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS YOU WILL.**"

In Matthew 26:42 we are told that Jesus prayed a second time saying,

"My Father, **IF** this cannot pass away unless I drink it, **YOUR WILL BE DONE.**"

We then read in Matthew 26:44 that Jesus "*prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more*".

Three times Jesus prayed that He would not need to drink the cup of death by crucifixion and three times He prayed that the Father's *WILL BE DONE!* In doing this Jesus gave us the *PERFECT EXAMPLE* of *SURRENDERING* to the Father's *WILL!*

Listen to the mind or attitude that Jesus had which moved Him to *SURRENDER* to the Father's *WILL*. In John 5:19 we read that Jesus said to the Jews,

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner."

Jesus then says in John 5:30,

"I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because **I DO NOT SEEK MY OWN WILL, BUT the WILL of Him Who sent Me.**"

Consider Jesus' example to us recorded in Matthew 3:13-17 when Jesus went to John the immerser to be immersed by Him in the Jordan River. When Jesus came to John, John tried to prevent Him, saying, "*I have need to be immersed by You*" [3:14]. Now notice Jesus' answer to John in Matthew 3:15 where Jesus said to John,

"Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us **TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS.**"

Then John immersed Him.

Are you listening? Then in Matthew 3:16-17, we are told that,

[16] ... after being immersed, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he (John) saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, [17] and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, **IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED.**"

The lesson for us to learn from this example of Jesus surrendering to the Father's WILL is that in order to be PLEASING to the Father; we must follow Jesus' example and do the things that *FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS!*

Do you realize that the God-breathed Scriptures instruct you that it is *imperative* for you to have the same attitude or mindset Jesus had? In Philippians 2:5-8 you are instructed that you are to,

^[5] Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ^[6] Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ^[7] but EMPTIED Himself, taking the form of a SLAVE, and being made in human likeness. ^[8] And being found in appearance as a man, He HUMBLERD Himself by BECOMING OBEDIENT to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Let me use Galatians 2:20 to ask you some questions in closing.

Have you *SURRENDERED* yourself to God's *WILL* and been crucified with Christ? Is it you who are living, or is it Christ Who is living in you? The life which you are now living in the flesh; are you living it having *SURRENDERED* yourself to God's *WILL*? Are you living by faith in the Son of God Who loves you and *SURRENDERED* Himself up to God's *WILL* for you?

Jesus gave us the *PERFECT EXAMPLE* of *SURRENDERING* to the Father's *WILL*. Will you follow His example and do what the Father *WILLS* for you to do found in His God-breathed Word, the Bible?

Will you please pray with me?

Father God, I praise You that Jesus loved us enough to surrender Himself to Your will. This He did, surrendering Himself to Your will and dying for us upon the Cross! Father I now pray and ask not only for myself but also for those praying with me that You create within each of us this same mindset of Jesus. Help us through Your Word and the leading of Your Holy Spirit to humble ourselves, emptying ourselves of our own wills and surrendering to Your God-breathed will for us. I ask You to do this through the power and authority in the name of Jesus! Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** promising in His Word to never leave you or forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

BECAUSE I STIVE DAILY TO DIE TO MY OWN WILL AND TO LIVE FOR HIS WILL! – tom!