

Sermon by Canon Jim Holbeck at the Healing Service at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney on Wed 7th December 2005 Reading: Mt6:9-15.
Title: "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

Perhaps the best advice I ever heard was this, "You've got to get your priorities right in life." That's what Jesus taught. A scribe once asked Him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

Two Great Commandments. Jesus' answer summed up succinctly the priorities we humans should have in life. 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Number one priority in life is to love God with all we are (and obviously obey Him).

Number two priority in life is to love our fellow humans as ourselves.

He was summing up the 10 Commandments and indeed all the commandments in the whole Bible in just these 2 Great Commandments.

The Ten Commandments begin with our duty to God and then later express our duty to our neighbour.

Lords Prayer. As we look at the Lord's Prayer we see that same priority. It is in 2 sections. Jesus taught us to speak to God our heavenly Father about our duty to Him first and then to ask for our human needs to be met.

Tonight we are looking at our duty to God first of all.

We see we address God as **Our Father in heaven.** Then come the 3 phrases that give Him his rightful place in our lives.

- i. **Hallowed be your name.** We saw that the "name" meant everything about the person, all God was and is, and all He has done for us. When we say **hallowed be your name** we are saying may we live in such a way that You Lord are honoured and glorified by who we are and by what we do.
- ii. **Your kingdom come.** When we pray the second phrase **Your kingdom come** we are saying that God is the ruler of this universe. We are praying that His rule be established in every part of His world, in me and in everyone else. He is the King and we need to submit to His kingly rule over us by loving Him and obeying Him.
- iii. **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** When we pray these words we are getting our priorities right once again. Let's see what these words mean as we pray them and how they relate to our healing.

When we pray *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven* we are affirming three things.

1. WE ARE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL OF HIS WORLD

Why should His will be done in this world, and not my will? It is because He is the creator, the ruler of this universe. We are saying that His will is done in heaven and it needs to be done on earth. He knows what's best for His world and for all those in it. *So Lord may Your will come to pass in this world and not mine or anyone else's.*

2. WE ARE ASKING GOD TO ENSURE HIS WILL IS DONE IN HIS WORLD

We are asking God to intervene in His world and to establish His rule in every area so that His will is being done by everyone.

There is so much in today's world that is not God's will. People are not giving God His rightful place.

Many don't acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only Saviour of this world.

Many ignore what He taught. They reject His claim when He said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me."

Many ignore what He has done for us on the cross.

Paul wrote in 1 Tim 2:3 about God's desire or will. *This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, 4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Peter wrote that Jesus is coming again to be the judge of this world and that people should get ready for His coming. 2 Pet 3:9 *The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.*

When people don't repent of their sins and don't receive Christ as Saviour they are rejecting God's will for them. That's what He wants for every person ever born on this world.

Tonight are you in His will or out of it? Is Jesus central in your life or not? He is central in God's purposes.

Many are living in such a way that others are being hurt or damaged or destroyed. Are you loving Him with Mk 12:30 *all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*

Are you *loving your neighbour as yourself.* That's His will for you and He gives you the desire and the power to do it.

3. WE ARE SURRENDERING OURSELVES TO DO HIS WILL IN OUR LIVES

When we pray *Your will be done*, we are saying to God, *Lord I want your will to be done in my life now and always. So I submit to Your rule over me and I want to do whatever You want me to do. I want to be what you want me to be.*

That's what Mary the mother of Jesus did when she was told by the angel Gabriel that she was to bear a child.

*Luke 1:28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "**Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.**" (ie., May your will be done in my life. You may do in me and through me what You wish.)*

What a tremendous commitment knowing the implications of her pregnancy.

It's the sort of commitment Jesus made as he came into this world. Heb 10:5 *Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" (ie., I have come to do your will in the body you have given me.)*

Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before His betrayal and death, Mat 26:39 ... "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." 42 *Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done..." 44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.*

Three times He committed Himself to do the Father's will and not His own will.

It was a choice he had but He chose to fulfil the Father's plan and purpose for Him to do the Father's will.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL FOR US. *your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

I want us to think about two passages from the Bible that challenge us to do the will of God for us. But they also encourage us as we seek to do His will.

Remember what Paul wrote in 1 Tim 2:3 about what God's desire or will. *This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, 4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

The Saviour wants everyone saved. But we have got to be willing to receive our salvation as a gift for we can never earn the forgiveness of our sins nor the gift of eternal life. We receive them by receiving Jesus into our lives to be our sin-bearer and Saviour.

Paul wrote in the first passage, Eph 2:8-10. *8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

God has saved you to do the things he has eternally planned for you to do. He wants to work within you as you open your life to Him.

He has made you a new creature in Christ so that you can know what those good works are be changed to be able to do them.

The second passage says much the same in different words. Ph 2:12-13. *12 ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

You can't work for your salvation because only Christ can save us. But as those open to God through our commitment to Him, we can work out in our lives what He is working in us as He recreates us and transforms us to be more like Him.

The tremendous encouragement is that the will of God doesn't have to be some vague thing out there we could never know.

No what Paul says here is that as we allow God to work in our lives, He gives us the willingness and the ability to do His will, the things that are pleasing in His sight.

Healing and Commitment.

There are many people who have found that as they received Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and committed themselves to do the will of God, that God began to work in their bodies and their minds to heal them.

I can think of lots of people who once had damaged bodies that God has healed and now they are committed to doing His will for them.

I think of others from broken relationships who had broken hearts and shattered dreams who are now healed and committed to doing the God's will as more whole and healed people.

How about you? Are you broken in body, mind or spirit? Would you like to be healed to do the will of God for you for the rest of your life?

Then commit yourself to Him and allow Him to do in you and through you what He wants to do.

A suggested prayer of commitment.

Dear Lord,

I need Your help. I admit that I have left you out of my life.

I have done things I should not have done.

I have not done things I should have done.

Please forgive my sins against You and against other people.

Lord Jesus, I invite You into my life to be my Saviour from sin.

I want You to be the Lord and Master of every part of my life.

Heavenly Father, may Your Kingdom come in my life and may Your will be done in me and through me.

Please heal me so I can become the person You want me to be, and do the things what you want me to do.

I ask these things in Jesus' name. AMEN