

It Happened In The Garden! - Part 3

The Battle of the Will

These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

1 Corinthians 10:11-13 (NLT)

He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!” Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again.

Matthew 26:39-44 (NLT)

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. He did not eat anything during those days. When they came to an end, he was hungry. The Devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread. Jesus answered him, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’” The Devil led him up to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. The Devil told him, “I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, because it has been entrusted to me, and I can give it to anyone I want. So, if you worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written: ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” The Devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here, because it is written: He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you. And, they will lift you up with their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered him, “It says: ‘You shall not test the Lord your God.’” When the Devil had finished every temptation, he left him until an opportune time. Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through all the surrounding area.

Luke 4:1-14 (EHV)

These temptations were directed by the devil so that Jesus would succumb to his will:

- Doubt God’s provision.
- Doubt God’s power.
- Doubt God’s person.

There is power to overcome but there is also power when we overcome.

- Jesus prays an honest prayer in the most vulnerable of moments.

By Jesus submitting to the Father’s will, the living Word is fulfilling the written Word.

- The living Word defeats the devil in the garden of pressing, the same way the written Word defeated the devil in the wilderness.

And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”

Luke 2:49 (NKJV)

But John tried to stop him, saying, “Why do you come to me to be baptized? I need to be baptized by you!” Jesus answered, “Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are God’s will.” So John agreed to baptize Jesus.

Matthew 3:14-15 (NCV)

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9-10 (NKJV)

Seek first God’s kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well.

Matthew 6:33 (NCV)

Then he pointed to his disciples and said, “Look, these are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!”

Matthew 12:49-50 (NLT)

- Jesus was resolute to do God’s will.

From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

Matthew 16:21-23 (NLT)

I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

John 5:30 (NLT)

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 6:38 (NKJV)

- Jesus was praying that the Father would keep Him alive so that He is able to fulfill the very purpose of God!

Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold. “Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong

to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. **John 17:11-15 (NLT)**

- **We are fighting the Father's will, instead of praying to do the Father's will.**

While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. **Hebrews 5:7 (NLT)**