

Accomplishing the will of God

John 4: 31 – 38

1) Being nourished by the will of God

- Jesus' disciples had gone into the town to buy food. When they returned to Jesus they urged him to eat something to which he replied that he has food to eat that they know nothing about.
- Jesus then clarifies by saying that His food is to do the will of him who sent him and to finish His work.
- ^{MT 4:4} Jesus answered, "It is written: `Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."
- Jesus was referring to Deuteronomy 8: 3 where God reminded the Israelites how He had provided manna in the desert for them.
- It is natural to want to eat and to get the needed nourishment for our bodies, but Jesus is setting different priorities.
- For him His nourishment, his satisfaction, his sense of purpose and destiny didn't lie in His physical needs being met. They lay in doing the will of the Father.
- ^{1 Peter 4:1 - 2} Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.
- When we believed in Jesus we were saved to do the will of God while in earth. We weren't saved to merely to go to heaven one day.
- ^{MT 7:21} "Not everyone who says to me, `Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
- Doing the will of God is sure evidence of our salvation. We don't pursue our needs and pleasures any longer but we pursue God's will – His desires and His pleasure.
- This is what nourishes us, motivates us, energises us and gives us purpose and meaning in life.
- It wasn't enough for Jesus to do the will of God, but He needed to finish the work of God that God had sent Him to do.
- Sometimes we start off well but then we get side tracked for various reasons.
- Galatians 3: 3 After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?
- If Jesus had healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead, preached to thousands, baptized believers and then did not complete the will of God by going to the cross it would have all been in vain and the world would remain lost without a Saviour and without hope.
- It was imperative that Jesus finished the work for which He was sent and it is imperative that we do the will of God and finish the work that He has given us to do.
- What is the will of God?
- The following are a couple of aspects of the will of God
 - For believers to be conformed to the likeness of Jesus (Romans 8: 29)
 - That all people should repent and be saved and none should perish (2 Peter 3: 9)

2) The fields are ripe for harvest

- Jesus and his disciples were in a rural setting in Samaria when He spoke about the harvest.
- He now narrowed down doing the will of God to the specific environment that they were in in Samaria.
- As with the general will of God when we should not run after our natural needs and wants we ought to look beyond the natural – in this case the harvest – and see what God wants to do in the environment that we find ourselves.
- What is the Word of God in our particular situation?
- Jesus was looking at what was happening in the town of Sychar where Jesus had been speaking to the woman at the well.
- They were on their way from Judea to Galilee and were actually only passing through Samaria on their way. But Jesus saw that something was happening there and knew that the harvest of souls was ripe. Their plans had to change slightly to accommodate what God was doing.
- Sometimes things happen in our lives that change the course of our lives – sometimes temporarily as in a delayed flight and sometimes permanently.
- Do we question God why the pain or inconvenience of this because we are so busy looking at the natural events – 4 months to the harvest – that we don't see God's hand in what is happening.
- The disciples were completely oblivious to what was happening spiritually in the lives of so many while they were running around buying food to eat.
- We need to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God i.e. we need to keep attune to what God is saying to us in every particular event and circumstance in our lives. Is there someone who He wants to touch through us?
- When we are given to accomplishing the will of God it results in life for others.
- Even now the reaper harvests the crop for eternal life (v.36)
 - 2 Cor.6: 2 "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

3) Labouring together in the kingdom

- We need to have a kingdom vision when labouring for the souls of men.
- This means that we rejoice when someone comes to faith through someone else even if we had been investing our time and energy into that person.
- There is no place for jealousy and infighting over people. People who come to faith in Jesus belong firstly to Him and His kingdom and not to us.
- Let the sower and the reaper be glad together – we rejoice along with the hosts of heaven when a sinner repents.
- This reveals the anticipation at which heaven longs and waits for sinners to repent.
- When we labour together for this end we enter into a work that is being eagerly watched by the heavenly host.
- We don't care who gets the credit – just doing the will of God and the satisfaction of a soul saved for eternity is enough for us.
- Let us labour together fulfilling God's purpose of salvation for this lost world.