

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel according to Luke (*Luke 22:41-44*)

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him. On reaching the place, He said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection - Let God's will be done! - The best cry for help

With God nothing is impossible (cf Luke 1:37) but He does not want to impose on our freewill, His precious gift to us.

The source of all power is God. He alone has dominion over all things visible or invisible for they are all created by Him. *Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made (John 1:3).* However, our God who is love and just, operates within His divine laws of love and justice, and does not violate our freewill by imposing His will upon us. Even though God, the Father loves each sinner as fully as He loves His divine Son, Jesus (cf. John 17:23), He will not impose His salvation upon any of His human children even though salvation of every one of His children is His most ardent desire.

When we exercise our freewill that is contrary to God's will for us, we cause pain to God and ourselves, and prevent His loving intervention. When a human heart hardened by unrepented sins, allows his/her lower human nature to dictate to it, and install itself as the centre of the little world that revolves around it, it contributes to the sorry state of the world today: unrest, rebellion, violence, greed, poverty, impurity, hatred, lack of peace, war, and all kinds of evil. Then these very same hearts cry out: Where is God?

Arriving at the assent that God's will be done. The internal assent that God's will be done can only be borne out of trust. In a heart that is firm in faith and practising holy love, such a decision to assent to God's will could be arrived at calmly and quickly in response to a stressful or dangerous situation. On the other hand, the same decision can also be arrived at by a soul that is driven into a corner in helplessness, but which quickly responded to the grace of the moment to pray that God's will be done. In both cases, both hearts submit to the higher desires of God and His power, and recall, willing or unwillingly, the truth that God's will is the best plan for our specific situations and larger lives.

Assenting to God's will opens the door for God's loving intervention in our situation. After Jesus prayed, "not My will but Yours be done" to God the Father, an angel was sent to strengthen Him (cf. Luke 22:42-43). Many wonderful things happen once we pray this prayer from the heart. Our heart is open to God's graces. God is invited to take concrete action in our situation. When the angels come in at the command of God, evil has to depart. We feel interior peace from letting God be God in our situation. Our hearts are strengthened to walk on the path of truth even though it is strewn with boulders and big obstacles. The battle of the moment is won even though the problem may seem outwardly unchanged.

Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame (cf. Romans 10:11). God allows trials and adversities to come into our lives to test our faith and love for Him. Our response to each of these situations depends on the level of our trust in God. Oftentimes we are conditioned to falsely believe we are in sole control of our lives, and that much depends on our capability and personal efforts. We forget that our very breath needs to be sustained by the Holy Spirit that resides within us. *For in Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28).* We forget that our very life can be called back to God at any time He so wishes.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, I believe with all my heart that You always have my best interest and welfare in Your plan for me. Help me to walk in Your footsteps to desire God's will even if it may give me much temporary pain. Desiring it and praying for it gain victory for that moment as the heart is open to receive special graces, and the stage is set for God's loving intervention. As I embrace Your will for me, give me discernment in all things and fidelity to Your will in all things. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.