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Sermon Series: The Heart of Service
Sermon Title: Surrendering to God's Greater Plan
Scripture Reference: Luke 22:39-46
Preacher: Ps Denis Lu

Surrendering to God's Greater Plan: The Power of "Not My Will, But Yours Be Done"

Introduction

One of the greatest challenges for any follower of Jesus is the constant tension between our own desires and God's perfect will. We live in a world that champions self-reliance and self-interest. Therefore, one of the most vital prayers we can ever embrace is the very prayer Jesus uttered in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

Content

1. Following Jesus' Example of Submission (Verse 39)

As disciples, we are called to walk in the footsteps of our Master. The Apostle Paul urged the Corinthian church to imitate him as he imitated Christ (1 Cor 11:1).

Following Jesus fundamentally means surrendering our own will to His and to God the Father. It practically means that "I will follow Jesus". It's a choice.

The human will, in its essence, refers to the capacity of the human mind to consciously choose, decide, and initiate actions. It's the faculty that allows us to exert control over our thoughts and behaviours, rather than simply reacting automatically to internal urges or external stimuli.

2. The Necessity of Prayer in Overcoming Temptation (Verses 40, 45-46)

Paul reminds us that we will face temptations common to humanity. Think about the daily struggles we encounter. God assures us that even in the midst of temptation, He provides a way out. However, we must be vigilant to pray and actively choose to follow that path.

Consider Daniel's example. When faced with a decree forbidding prayer to anyone but the king, Daniel chose to pray to God, knowing it would lead to trouble. Yet, his unwavering faith resulted in a powerful display of God's miraculous protection in the lions' den.

3. Embracing Jesus' Prayer of Surrender (Verses 41-44)

Jesus Himself faced the ultimate temptation in the Garden. He stood at a crossroads: to embrace the immense suffering of the cross or to turn away. He knew the agonising pain that lay just

moments ahead. Jesus sought solitary prayer. While communal prayer is important, there are times, especially in personal struggles, when we need to seek God privately and intimately.

With humility, Jesus presented His request to the Father: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me." It is always right to bring our desires and burdens before God, no matter how big or small. Yet, Jesus' prayer culminated in complete surrender: "yet not my will, but yours be done." This is a prayer of profound submission and recognition that He came to fulfill the Father's will (Hebrews 10:5-7).

This passage offers us a glimpse into the power of true prayer. Whether visible or unseen, God often sends His divine assistance. God sends His angels to strengthen us. Angels are His messengers, ministering to His people.

Remember the acronym: P.U.S.H. – Pray Until Something Happens. Pray Until STRENGTH Happens! Pray until you are strengthened in your spirit supernaturally!

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Therefore, let us not be anxious, but in every situation, through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present our requests to God. (Philippians 4:6-7) Nothing is impossible for Him! Hallelujah!

It's a powerful reality that even with supernatural strengthening, Jesus still experienced deep anguish. We can only imagine the immense struggle He faced, making the angel's intervention all the more vital.

Conclusion

Let this powerful prayer become our daily petition. It is a prayer Jesus Himself taught us to pray: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

So, no matter what challenges you are facing today, embrace this prayer of surrender. You will never go wrong when you align your will with God's. Trust that He will strengthen you every step of the way.

Discussion Questions (Discussion leaders may adapt the questions to suit their small groups)

1. Share some (any) of your life plans, past or present, with your LG and explain why you plan it that way.
2. What does it mean when Jesus said – *Not my will but yours be done*?
3. Referring to the plans you shared in no. 1 above, what do you think about your will and God's will in those plans?

DBS/BOBILA Questions

1. What does this passage say about humans?

2. What does this passage say about God?
3. What does this passage say about surrendering our will?
4. What do you need to change to surrender to God's will?
5. With Whom/ When /Where/ How can you share this message?