

Bible Study - Lecture X – Part 2
Brookland Baptist Church
Wednesday, September 30, 2020
Presenter: James A. Jamison, D. Min.

GOD’S ULTIMATE WILL
(God's final realization of divine purposes.)

Let’s recap Joseph’s story:

In Genesis 37-50 the story is told of Joseph, favored son of Jacob, who is sold by his jealous brothers to slave traders. Joseph is sold again to Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard. Joseph distinguishes himself as a responsible servant. Joseph is wrongly accused and imprisoned for trying to assault his master's wife. While in prison, Joseph interprets the dreams of some fellow prisoners. After one of the prisoners returns to work for the Pharaoh he remembers Joseph when the Pharaoh has some unexplainable dreams. Joseph is called upon to interpret them. Joseph is made a chief officer over the land.

When the famine comes, Joseph is able to save his family from starvation. Joseph comes to see that being sold into slavery has allowed him to preserve a remnant of his people and thus further God's purposes despite the evil done to him by his brothers, and Potiphar’s wife. (Genesis 50:20).

Last week I mentioned that we will show how the three aspects of God’s will were shown in Joseph’s journey to the palace. Joseph lets the proverbial cat out of the bag to his brothers in Genesis 45: 5-8:

- **Intentional Will of God:** Joseph helps us to see that it was God’s intention for him to be in Egypt. (Verse 5).

- **Circumstantial will of God:** The evil of men; his own brothers threw him in a pit and sold him into slavery. The master's wife accused him of sexual assault and had him thrown in prison and he is forgotten by the Cupbearer.
- **The Ultimate will of God:** Joseph is released from prison and elevated over Pharaoh's households and saves many lives. (Verse 7-8).

God used the trials Joseph endured to bring about something good: "the saving of many lives," including those of his brothers who had hated him so much, Potiphar's wife who falsely accused him, and the cupbearer who forgot about him. (Genesis 50:20)

We can learn a lot from the patient endurance of Joseph during the hardships he experienced in Egypt and trust that God is using all situations for His and our good (Romans 8: 28).

1. Purpose of the Lesson

To understand that God's ultimate will for my life and the world will be reached. It was God who began this strange adventure we call life and it will be God who will control the end. God can transform evil and redeem sin into stepping-stones that lead to ultimate good.

2. Key Concepts

- God's ultimate will is the goal which God reaches, not only in spite of all we may do, but even through redeeming evil to further the divine plan.
- Considering the ultimate will of God brings up two important truths about God. The first is God's omnipotence: that God's limitless power can achieve every divine purpose for the world. The second truth is that God may choose to limit this power in order to give human

beings the freedom to choose to follow God's ways. This freedom is known as *free will*, the ability of a person to make moral choices or express desires and opinions. Free will gives us freedom of choice and also lays the responsibility for our choices directly on our own shoulders.

- In the New Testament the one who is truly free knows that freedom is given so that we can choose to live in service of God and neighbor. For the Christian, the church is the community of those who freely choose to serve and love God together.

Read the following case study and consider the questions that follow.

1. CASE STUDY #1 - Peter's Story

Peter, a nine-month-old with AIDS, joins the household of Renee—a single foster mom—and a foster brother. These three become a family with a large extended community of caregivers. Social workers, church friends, home care workers, and friends are in and out of their home daily. Every day seems precious since Renee is keenly aware that they may not have many years together. Renee, who two years ago decided she wanted children, now has two sons. Two young boys who needed a loving parent now have a committed mom, each other, and a host of friends.

Considerations

1. **Consider:** If and how God's ultimate will has been accomplished in Peter's life. How can God's ultimate will be done after a tragedy like being infected with a horrible disease?
2. What if Renee had determined that she couldn't cope with two needy children of similar ages? Would God's ultimate will have been thwarted? If someone disobeys God's intention, does God have an

alternative plan? What do you think and why?

3. Does everything have to work out perfectly for God's ultimate will to be accomplished?
4. Weatherhead writes, "If man is to have real freedom, and if the community is to be bound together in such a close unity that the one suffers for the many, even as the one gains through the many-if, in a word, life is to be on the family and not on the individual basis, then obviously ten thousand things can happen that God did not intend." Since we suffer and gain due to the acts of others, how does Peter "suffer" or "gain" through what he has experienced?

For further inquiry, look up these scripture verses:

- Genesis 17:1; Exodus 6:2-9; Revelation 4:8 (God's might)
 - Mark 3:31-35 (Jesus defines the spiritual nature of family)
 - Psalm 68:5-6 (In God's circumstantial will an extended family is provided to care for orphans, the sick, and the lonely)
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Read the following case study and consider the questions that follow.

2. CASE STUDY #2 **Trina's Story**

After a lengthy separation and several attempts at reconciliation, Ed and Trina divorce. Both complete medical school. Ed joins a general medical practice in his hometown. Trina takes a job in another state as an emergency room physician working with trauma victims, which she loves. Both continue to go to their respective churches, although both feel as outsiders in the church due to their status as divorced people.

Considerations

1. **Consider:** If and how God's ultimate will has been accomplished in Trina's and Ed's lives? How can God's ultimate will be done after a tragedy like divorce?
2. What if Trina or Ed had dropped out of medical school or if they had decided to stay together even though the abuse did not end? Would God's ultimate will have been thwarted? If someone disobeys God's intention, does God have an alternative plan? What do you think and why?
3. Does everything have to work out perfectly for God's ultimate will to be accomplished?
4. Weatherhead writes, "If man is to have real freedom, and if the community is to be bound together in such a close unity that the one suffers for the many, even as the one gains through the many-if, in a word, life is to be on the family and not on the individual basis, then obviously ten thousand things can happen that God did not intend." Since we suffer and gain due to the acts of others, how do Ed and Trina "suffer" or "gain" through what they have experienced?

For further inquiry, look up these scripture verses:

- **Mark 10:2-12; Matthew 19:4-9** (Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce)
- **1 Corinthians 7:10-16** (God's calling regarding marriage and divorce)
- **Ephesians 5:21-33** (Mutual submission in marriage)
- **Ezekiel 16:59-63** (God's everlasting covenant)
- **Isaiah 54:5-8** (God's compassion)
- **Isaiah 43:1-2** (God's presence in times of great trial)

Read the following case study and consider the questions that follow.

3. STUDY #3 - Trinity Church

Trinity Church continues to worship together on Sunday mornings, to run its low cost day care, and to rent some of its classrooms as office space to community groups and other nonprofit groups during the weekdays. They also rent the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons to a new church for non-English speaking Asian immigrants. A shelter for homeless people occupies the parish hall one weekend a month. The congregation remains small but highly active in the community.

Considerations

- 1. Consider:** If and how God's ultimate will has been accomplished in the congregation and local community.
- 2.** What if Trinity Church had moved to the suburbs? Would God's ultimate will have been thwarted? If a group of people disobeys or disagrees on God's intention, does God have an alternative plan? What do you think and why?
- 3.** Does everything have to work out perfectly for God's ultimate will to be accomplished?
- 4.** Weatherhead writes, "If man is to have real freedom, and if the community is to be bound together in such a close unity that the one suffers for the many, even as the one gains through the many-if, in a word, life is to be on the family and not on the individual basis, then obviously ten thousand things can happen that God did not intend" Since we suffer and gain due to the acts of others, how does this congregation "suffer" or "gain" through what they have experienced?

For further inquiry, look up these scripture verses:

- **John 6:35-40** (the ultimate will of God)
 - **Acts 2:42-47** (early church practices)
 - **1 Peter 2:9-11** (the calling of God's people)
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Joseph had a quiet confidence that he was in God's will, and that the Lord had placed him in Egypt for a purpose.

The following poem expresses the need for all believers to find security and confidence in the Will of God. (We will reference it again at other points in our study.)

The Will of God will never take you:

- Where the *Grace of God* cannot keep you.
- Where the *arms of God* cannot support you.
- Where *riches of God* cannot supply your needs.
- Where the *power of God* cannot endow you.

The Will of God will never take you:

- Where the *spirit of God* cannot work through you.
- Where the *wisdom Of God* cannot teach you.
- Where the *army of God* cannot protect you.
- Where the *hands of God* cannot mold you

The Will of GOD will never take you:

- Where the *LOVE of GOD* cannot enfold you.
- Where the *Mercies of GOD* cannot sustain you.
- Where the *Peace of GOD* cannot calm your fears.

- Where the *Authority of GOD* cannot over rule you.

The Will of GOD will never take you:

- Where the *Comfort of GOD* cannot dry your tears.
 - Where the *Word of GOD* cannot feed you.
 - Where the *Miracles of GOD* cannot be done for you.
 - Where the *Omnipresence of GOD* cannot find you.
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Assignment for Wednesday, October 7, 2020

**‘The Will of God Workbook’
by Rebecca Laird**

Read: Chapter Four

**Discerning The Will of God
(Pages 57 – 61)**