

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Matthew 16:21-26

September 2, 2018

### You are writing your Will. Which Will will be yours?

Have you written or updated your Will? We hesitate... or smile and say, "Yes."

There's another Will that we constantly write. Jesus points to it.

- The words translated *wants* - *strongly desires* - *has the will* - *wills*
- *For whoever wills to save their life will lose it, but whoever wills to lose their life for me will find it.*
- These are 2 contrasting and incompatible wills - strong desires - life goals

### You are writing your Will. Which Will will be yours?

#### ❖ What is your driving desire - the will you want to dominate?

- Why did Peter rebuke Jesus, *Never, Lord! ... This shall never happen to you!*
  - ♦ *You aren't thinking the way God thinks but the way humans think.*” GW
  - ♦ *Created in the image of God* meant God and people - on the same page
  - ♦ Since sin entered the picture God and people are on totally different pages
  - ♦ People: *prefer the pleasant always - pain avoidance* - Don't we all?
    - There is nothing wrong with liking pleasant and avoiding pain!
    - But to make it your **driving desire - defining will** - *all flesh all the time*
      - This is worship of self. Defines life by *quality of life* - *the pleasant*
      - The thinking of sinners: **a driving desire to the "good life"**
      - God is only considered to use him to facilitate *trouble free living*.
      - Ex. *God wants me to be happy, doesn't he? This makes me happy.*
  - ♦ The disciples found Jesus' cross unthinkable - off the radar of good.
    - It was not their idea of God's Messiah - a King of Glory reigning here
    - The Theology of Glory wants victory, triumph, winning, prosperity.
    - This is the thinking of our fallen sinful nature.
    - The 12 were writing the wrong Will. Where do you demand your way?
- Jesus came to save us from ourselves and restore God's will in us.
  - ♦ **Jesus began to establish that it was necessary go to Jerusalem and suffer many things ... be killed and on the third day be raised to life.**
  - ♦ *Necessary* - to do God's will and to rescue us from our self-service selves
  - ♦ Jesus was not forced to go. He went freely, willingly - godly thinking driven
    - Jesus' way of thinking still stuns us. It's outside our natural thinking.
    - Unbelievers find it foolish, stupid, crazy, even corrupting.
    - Believers struggle - still working to expose and put off those notions.
  - ♦ We follow Jesus, so he will rescue us from sin's twisted purpose/agenda

#### ❖ There are only two Wills. Consider carefully!

- **The Will to save their own life**
  - ♦ *their life* - this way of life, life lived by as good, pleasant, the way I want
  - ♦ Ranging from: wild party life to simply *health, family, useful, enjoyment*
  - ♦ Clinging to this as way of thinking and lifestyle is a **losing battle**.
  - ♦ **... whoever wants to save their life will lose it**
    - the Will of the sinful nature will lose - lose all they value
    - plunged into an utterly unpleasant eternity, no *quality of life* - **no life**, soul and body devoid of good - full of shame, self-loathing, hopeless
    - What the world considers wise, clearly is a foolish Will!
- **The Will to lose this life**
  - ♦ **Whoever wants to be Jesus' disciple must deny themselves... lose their sinful nature's way of thinking and living for the sake of following Jesus - they will find life.**
    - *whoever loses their life for me will find it.*
    - This is broader than being killed for confessing Christ.
    - It's a call to lose a sin-drive and sin-thinking *so-called life*.
    - **Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.**
      - *deny yourself* = reject the sin self as who you are and **will** to be
      - *take up your cross* - cross = world disowns you, you disown old self
      - Everything we want to be is found in Jesus: his truth & ways
    - This is the *joyful life of repentance* - expose, change, live
      - Looking to be freed from sin's foolishness, blindness, influence
      - The change of mindset - desires direction - put into action, i.e. lived
      - This is the New Life only found daily following Jesus.

The way you live - the desires that drive you - writes your Will.

These words of our Lord daily ask you and me:

### Which Will will be yours?

*Jesus, it's my Will to live as your student. Help me reject the world's so-called life and be devoted to live in and with you. To live the life that never ends.*