

“My Jesus, As Thou Wilt”

In 1704, a German Lutheran minister named Benjamin Schmolke (sometimes spelled Schmolck) wrote the original words to a hymn that we often sing today: “My Jesus, as Thou Wilt.” It was translated into English by Jane Borthwick around 1853, and has been a Christian standard ever since. Obviously, from its name, it expresses the author’s attitude of submission to God’s will. He wrote:

*“My Jesus, as Thou wilt! Oh, may Thy will be mine!
Into Thy hand of love I would my all resign;
Through sorrow, or through joy, conduct me as Thine own,
And help me still to say, “My Lord, Thy will be done.”*

All five stanzas end the same way: “Thy will be done.”

We, as humans, are a selfish lot. We want what we want when we want it. Quite often, the effects of doing our own will is in sharp contrast to the will of the people around us. Still, we have no concern for that if we can see our own will done in our lives. However, Christians cannot have this attitude. Our will, what we want, needs to be modeled after what God wants for us. The best example of a person yielding to God’s will is, of course, Jesus. In **Matthew 6**, in what we commonly call the “Lord’s Prayer,” Jesus prayed:

***“your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.”***

In **Matthew 26**, Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying to God. It is just before His betrayal, and He is fully aware of what is about to happen to Him. In **verse 39**, Jesus says:

“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

It is said that He repeats basically the same thing to God two additional times. He would rather not suffer the pain of crucifixion, but He realizes that if it is God’s way to redeem mankind, He is willing to die. This is only a continuation of the way Jesus lived His life while He was here. In **John 6:38-40**, this is what Jesus says about Himself:

“I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Our job while we are here is to marry our will with that of our Heavenly Father. The Hebrew writer said it best in **Hebrews 13:20-21**:

“Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you

with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

We have been given all we need in order to do God's will. It is up to us, in the word, to find out what God's will is and do it. Whether convenient or not, whether or not it is what we want, God's will must be done.

---Johnny Stephens