

Morning Star Church
Devotional Guide
ONE, Week 2, One Will [The Garden of Gethsemane]
March 7-12, 2010

Message synopsis: Pastor Keith taught us to look at what it must have been like for Jesus to fully come to the realization that there was only *one will* from God about how Jesus was to accomplish our salvation...it was through the Cross. In this garden experience Keith showed us the true humanity of Jesus struggling with the anxiety of His own personal fear and God's purpose for His life. Surrender was the choice Jesus made. Our challenges, while not as weighty as Jesus', still require surrender to following God's will.

Abba, Father! You can do all things. Take away this cup of suffering. But do what you want, not what I want. Mark 14:36, NCV

Day 1: Jesus, The Son of God, knows the Father's will. Read John 10:14-17, 27-30, 36-38; John 14:6-11.

1. After reading these verses in John, how clear did Jesus make it to His followers and the religious leaders around Him that He and God the Father were ONE?
2. Pastor Keith talked about Jesus clearly understanding He had one purpose in His life: the Father's will. Everything He did was to follow the direction of God's will. Read John 6:38-40, according to these words of Jesus Himself, does He have an accurate understanding of God's will for His own life?

Day 2: Jesus is obedient to the Father's will.

1. Read Matthew 20:28; John 3:16-17. Jesus clearly stated what His purpose was in coming to earth. Do you feel that Jesus ever struggled with this purpose for His life?
2. Share with your group your thoughts about Luke 9:51 in the Amplified Bible:
Now when the time was almost come for Jesus to be received up [to heaven], He steadfastly and determinedly set His face to go to Jerusalem.

Day 3: Jesus seeks out a place to pray.

1. Read Luke 22:39. Luke's account implies that Jesus made prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane a habit. Are there *places* where you feel closer to God? Do you have a *place* where you develop time alone with God? Is this important to you?

2. Read Matthew 26:36-43. How many times does Jesus wish He had someone to *be there with him* during this turmoil in His life? How important is it to you that you have friends, like the people in your small group, who will *be there with you* in times of crisis?

Day 4: Jesus struggles with His own humanity in the Garden.

1. Read Isaiah 53:3; Mark 14:33-36. Scholars tell us that Mark got his information about this night directly from Peter who was an eyewitness. The language here is very descriptive. It says Jesus was “stuck with terror”, which implies that He was experiencing smothering anxiety. Have you ever had an experience of this kind of anxiety where you feel like you are smothering?
2. Read Mark 14:36. Jesus used the familial term for close relationship between and parent and a child in “*Abba*”; there is a sense of intimacy and immediacy. Do you sense the deep struggle with His full humanity and His full Deity in this experience in the Garden?

Day 5: The Crucible of Decision

1. Read Mark 14:41-42. This is *unvarnished realism*, Jesus has requested another alternative, but the Father has made it clear there is no other way. Jesus has come to understand this was God’s will, and He was ready to accept it. Has there ever been a time in your life when you have been in this kind of *crucible of decision*? A time of deep searching and God has revealed to you His will but it is an uncomfortable thing?
2. Have you also experienced as Jesus did, that once we commit to *one will, His will* that anxiety subsides, breakthrough occurs and a quiet peace comes over your spirit?

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Small Group Discussion Guide
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Group icebreaker: Are there times when you want to be alone, when do they usually occur? Share with your group about times when you do not want to be alone.

1. Pastor Keith talked about 2 points of prophecy being fulfilled in the Garden, discuss these in your group:
 - What was the significance of the *olive press* at Gethsemane?
 - Why do you think Jesus was referred to as a “*Man of Sorrows*”?
2. How did the Man of Sorrows express His...?
 - Humanity
 - Temptation
 - Anguish
 - Loneliness
 - Responsibility
 - Destiny
3. What *garden experiences* have you encountered in your spiritual journey?
4. What does it take for you to release your will and follow God’s plan?

Prayer Requests:

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Sermon Notes

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March 6-7, 2010

“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.” (*Hebrews 5:7-9*)

Prophecy Fulfilled:

- **Zechariah 14:4**: “On that day his feet will stand on the **MOUNT** of **OLIVES**, east of Jerusalem.”
- **Isaiah 53:3**: “He was despised and rejected by men, a **MAN** of **SORROWS**, and familiar with suffering.”

In the Garden of Gethsemane, we see Christ’s...

- **HUMANITY** (Mark 14:33-35)
- **TEMPTATION** (Luke 22:40-41)
- **ANGUISH** (Luke 22:44)
- **LONELINESS** (Matthew 26:40-41)
- **RESPONSIBILITY** (Mark 14:35-36a)
- **SUBMISSION** (Mark 14:36)

One Will:

“I and the Father are one... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.” (*John 10:30, 14:9-10*)