

"Thy Will Be Done"

"And the children of Israel...asked of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment. And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. And they despoiled the Egyptians." Exodus 12:35-36

Man's will yields to the will of God – whether man wants it or not. God can move man's will, like that of a robot, to accomplish His purpose. While God inflicted plague after plague on Egypt, the Bible reminds us, "...the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart."¹

When it was time for Israel to depart Egypt on the Exodus, God laid it on the hearts of the Egyptians to surrender their wealth to these former slaves. It does not require sanctified imagination to conclude that this act of generosity was not naturally motivated by the goodness of those pagan hearts.

Furthermore, God holds man responsible for submitting his will to Him, and God judges man when he stubbornly refuses to yield.

Although these two appear contradictory, both are true. On the one hand, God will have His way, with or without your cooperation. At the same time, God grants you the freedom to bend your will to His, or rebel and reap the consequences. As His obedient servant, purpose in your heart to keep your will in complete surrender to His will.

¹Exodus 10:27

The End Justifies the Means

"And one of them, *named* Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, 'Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.' And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation." John 11:49-51

Political expediency at the expense of what is right is an abomination to God. One of the most blatant illustrations of this in Scripture is found in what Caiaphas and the rest of the Jewish leadership did regarding the crucifixion of Christ; they intentionally condemned a Man they knew was innocent out of fear that the Romans might treat the nation harshly.

God does not mind if the end justifies the means as long as you don't violate His commandments or your conscience. For example, the surgeon opens the chest of his patient and stops the heart, in order to repair the heart valves. The dentist drills a hole in your tooth in order to stop the decay.

Any time you compromise what you know to be right to accomplish a goal, even if you are sure that it is a worthy goal, you know that you have sinned against God.