

April 2011



Facing The Dreadful Will of God

Elder Charles Moore

As we saw last month, when Jesus confronted the dreadful will of God and faced the cruelty of the cross, He was "greatly distressed and troubled." (Mark 14:33). We concluded that when facing the dreadful will of God that it is OK to be scared. This month I would like us to know that when facing the dreadful will of God it is also OK to pray. You might be thinking, "Duh, of course it is OK to pray." It is instinctive to pray when we get into trouble. Even atheists sometimes catch themselves saying "Oh God!", when they are surprised by pain. But how often, when faced with difficulty, do we try to gut it out? We try to find ways to solve a problem ourselves and even Christians use prayer as 'the backup plan'.

Prayer is the purpose for Jesus' visit to Gethsemane. He is teaching His disciples a very important lesson about what to do when God leads you where you don't want to go. In between their naps, they hear Jesus pray, and pass on this lesson to you and me.

The lesson is not just that

it is OK to pray but it's OK to pray for deliverance.

There is nothing wrong with asking God for a less painful path. "He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." (Mark 14:35-36)

Our Lord falls on His face to the ground and asks His Father Who can do all things to save Him from what is about to happen. What exactly was Jesus asking for? Mark uses these two words to describe God's will for Jesus: the "hour" and the "cup". The hour speaks of an appointment; an event that has been preplanned. It is often used in the Gospel of John to speak of the time of His death.

"Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not

yet come." (John 7:30) Mark says that now, as Jesus prays, His hour is about to come; the time that had been planned by God from eternity past, when Jesus would die for the sins of the world. Why would He ask for it to pass? Because of the suffering He knew was coming. It was one of the most painful, humiliating deaths anyone could endure. It was meant to strike fear into the hearts of anyone who even thought about disobeying the law. Jesus had no doubt seen crucifixions and had seen the suffering of condemned criminals. Because Jesus knew all things, He also knew how He Himself would suffer as He was being scourged and nailed to the Cross.

Yet there was a deeper suffering He would endure that troubled Him even more: the cup of God's wrath. Many good men and women have faced suffering and death for God's sake, but no one has ever or will ever suffer what Jesus did on the Cross. Beyond the physical pain of crucifixion, the Bible says that He bore the sins of the world, as well as the cup of God's wrath against every sinner that has ever been born. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,

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that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21) Stop and think what that means. Think about how guilty you have felt when you've done something wrong. Remember how heavy that weighs on your heart? Now imagine the guilt of every sin that has ever been committed by every person who has ever lived or ever would live being placed upon you. What would you feel? Now imagine that because of this huge mass of guilt laid on you, God forsakes you. From eternity past, God the Father and God the Son have enjoyed a perfect, loving relationship with one another, but for a brief moment in time they will be separated. Jesus saw the horror of His suffering for sin, and separation from God, and because He was a man, He pleaded, 'let this cup pass from Me'. We can see that it is OK to pray for deliverance as long as you desire His will. Jesus asks God the Father **Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.**" (Mark 14: 36) There was a deeper, stronger desire in the heart of Jesus than to escape His suffering. He wanted God's will done in His life. When He looked into future to the hour of His suffering, He was afraid. When He looked into the dark cup of God's wrath He was to drink to the dregs, He was full of dread. But in spite of His fear and dread, there was one thing Jesus wanted more than anything else; He wanted His Father to be glorified, by either His life, or even by His death.

When God's will for you seems dreadful, it is OK to pray for deliverance. You aren't doing wrong when you ask God to make you, or someone you love, healthy instead of sick. It's perfectly all right to pray that God would spare your life from death. It's OK to pray that God will keep you and the people you love safe and sound. At the same time, when we pray, there has to be a deeper, stronger desire for God's will to be done in our lives; even when His will means suffering and pain for you or those you pray for. Every time you pray, for yourself or for others, there has to be the **"nevertheless"** that was a part of Jesus' prayer. Just as Jesus knew that all things are possible for God to do, there are some prayers He does not answer, because they are not His will. It's always OK to pray, as long as whether it is spoken or unspoken, your heart prays, **'nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will'**.

Cyberspace News

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Our country has had a devastating April with so many tornadoes through the south.

We have had a lot of rain and it has been cool but we praise God for the tornadoes we have missed. Our prayers go out to the folks that have lost everything, including family members.

Rip and Norma Ripley are enjoying the warm spring days and taking walks outside. This is the time of year that the Roanoke area comes alive with beautiful flowers. We are so glad the Ripleys can enjoy God's creation.

Deborah Stoner, her granddaughter Rebecca, and her sister Karen Dorsey and her granddaughter Cora flew to Florida to enjoy Disney World together. The two little cousins enjoyed every minute of Mickey and Minnie and Deborah and Karen tried to keep up and enjoy all their fun!

I received a nice long letter from Ellen Momberger. She has been enjoying the beautiful Phoenix weather, her son's family who lives there and her daughter Karen's long-distance phone calls from Maryland. She counts her blessings daily.

Laurie Eckles and Rachel Sottile traveled to Rochester New York to have Laurie's annual physical check up. They looked forward to seeing Sonya Pease. It has become a real tradition to get together once a year.

Brad (Larry and Peggy Charles' oldest son) and Sarah Charles had some exciting news just after April ended. Email from Peggy - Hannah Elizabeth arrived today at 11:53, May 1st. She weighs 7 # 7 oz and is 19 inches long. Congratulations to the whole Charles clan!

Rox-Ann and David Brugman (Charlie and Aurine Moore's daughter) have a new star in their family, daughter Elisha has been discovered by the Hillsdale track team and she is running races and winning every one so far! Papa and Grandma Moore are bustin' their buttons with pride! Keep up the good work, Elisha.

Roy and Bennie Gee have completed their move and are enjoying the quiet beauty and peacefulness of living in a wooded area. Their new address is 13063 Banner Lava Cap Road, Nevada City, CA 95959. Their new landline is 530-470-01212. Our best wishes go out to you in your new home.

That is all the news for April. May the Lord bless you abundantly this new month.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore



April 30th, was an absolutely momentous day in history. On that day in 1492, Christopher Columbus received a royal commission to equip the fleet which came to the Americas and resulted in its settlement by Europeans. Then, a mere 297 years later, George Washington was inaugurated as the United States' first President. Fittingly, 100 years later, the day was declared the first U.S. national holiday and the George Washington Bridge opened, which still links the City of New York to the State of New Jersey. In 1904, the ice cream cone made its debut and in 1952, the very first toy was advertised on television - the celebrated Mr. Potato Head. And as you know by now, *most of it is not connected* . . .

Carrie and Joel DeHaan, awaiting the birth of their son and her completion of her medical degree, have found a home in which they will live when she begins her medical residency in Traverse City. We are so glad they will be close by and accessible by car! Geneva Begeman has been heard singing, "I can see clearly now". Well, no, she hasn't been singing, but she is rejoicing at the good outcome of surgery to open up her range of vision. (She looks pretty good too!) Erin and Pat Gill made a quickly planned trip related to Pat's work to Germany. Despite the potential Federal government shut-down that threatened Erin's ability to get a passport on time, it was smooth sailing all the way. Charlie and I made it safely home after an adventure and exercise filled trip to Puerto Vallarta. We really appreciated Elder Tim Begeman's faithfulness to preach to the congregation during their absence. Pat Conley and Melinda Begeman both enjoyed the graduation ceremonies of their respective nieces, Pat's in Monroe and Melinda's in Chicago.

We enjoyed hearing from our Sabbath School Superintendent a bit of history about Ernie Harwell, the Detroit Tigers' beloved sportscaster. Jeff Begeman told us how Ernie would read off of the ticker tape in early broadcasts the events of the Tigers game and make it as exciting as if he, and his listeners, were right at the pitcher's mound or right in the stands and how Ernie

came to his relationship with Jesus Christ at a Billy Graham crusade. Ray Nothstine blogged about this in 2008 when he said, 'Harwell has many thrilling encounters and prestigious awards in his long life, but his most important encounter he says came on Easter morning in 1961 at a Billy Graham Crusade in Bartow, Florida. "Something told me I should go, and then I turned to Jesus, and ever since then my life hasn't been the same since." Thank God for Easter and evangelists and people who are simply willing to share how Jesus changed their lives in simple and real ways.

We also enjoyed our shared Good Friday service with Pastor Mike Heil and his wife Dodi. Elder Charlie Moore, clad in army fatigue shorts and green tee shirt, gave a heart-felt narration of the trial and crucifixion from the point of view of the Roman soldier and Pastor Heil gave a wonderful sermonette, based on Rev. 5:9 about the Lamb who was worthy to open the scroll "because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation". Several of our members, including Dave and Terrie Fedor, Tim, Diane, Geneva and Dale Begeman, and Pastor Moore were blessed to share in the Easter Sunday service with the members of New Hope Christian Church.

The Faith in Action Spring Dinner Auction at the Nazarene Church in Monroe was another event that was enjoyed by Nate and Joel Valentine and Charlie and I. Faith in Action mobilizes church members to provide needed assistance in the home to seniors who need it and transportation and errands in the community. Their Director, Nancy Young, works hard to link those in need with those who want to serve their neighbors in need.

We 'rounded off' the month, as Richard Bewes, pastor emeritus of All Soul's Church in London, England (the video host of the Bible study we just completed on II Corinthians) would say, on our last Bible lesson, hosted in the home of Diane and Tim Begeman. The series of Bible studies has been a gentle blessing as we have engaged in the "Book by Book" Bible studies. Until next, may God be your constant guide and teacher.



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Three ministers were talking about prayer and the appropriate and effective positions for prayer. As they were talking, a telephone repairman was working on the phone system in the background. One minister shared that he felt the key was in the hands. He always held his hands together and pointed them upward as a form of symbolic worship. The second minister suggested that real prayer was conducted on your knees. The third piped up, saying they both had it wrong - the only position worth its salt was to pray while stretched out flat on your face. By this time the phone man couldn't stay out of the conversation any longer. He interjected, "I found that the most powerful prayer I ever made was while I was dangling upside down by my heels from a power pole, suspended forty feet above the ground." Whatever way we pray, however we pray; one of the things we learn from Jesus is that in the face of even the greatest trial and temptations, our first line of defense is to seek God in prayer.

