

Transcript* - Do It Your Way - 4/19/2026 - Pastor John Klundt

Good morning everybody. Hey.

I just want to say, you guys. All of you do a great job singing. Thank you. That was really awesome. I enjoyed that immensely. I want to thank our band this morning. Appreciate them for sure.

So we're in a series called House of prayer and we're talking about prayer. We're going to talk about prayer a lot. We started last week. We had Paul Covert here and he did such a great job. It beginning with the Lord's Prayer and Matthew chapter six. And it's such a powerful prayer. And by the way, we're doing this primarily because we want to be a church.

That is a house of prayer, because we think it's important that we grow in our prayer and the the depth and the width of of our praying. We believe in the power of prayer and especially in the power of prayer when we pray together. But praying to all kinds of times and all seasons and and all of that.

But one of the reasons we're going through this together and we're picking out some scripture passages because if you if you're struggling with like starting or knowing what to pray, praying some scripture passage prayers are the are a really good way to start. And so I'm going to encourage you with that and go to Matthew six and pray the Lord's Prayer.

Go to our passage today in Matthew chapter 26 and pray the prayer that Jesus prayed, which is how Jesus taught us to pray last week. And then and we're seeing an example of him praying to the Lord in a very difficult circumstance that he was that he was facing. So again, we're going to be in Matthew chapter 26 today.

And just to kind of give you an idea of, as we read this passage starting in verse 36. What's happening here is Jesus is just moments away from being arrested, moments away from going on trial, being be being spit on, being, mocked, having, a flogging, just the crown of thorns being nailed to the cross like this is just moments from that.

And there's an intensity here in the enormity. So as I read this, my encouragement to you today is to lean in, not physically, although if you want to lean forward, that's cool. But lean in, like, in an attentive way and listen to the intensity of this passage. Listen to the to the emotions that Jesus was going through as we read this.

And this is not here for us by accident. This particular passage, particularly with the prayer that Jesus prays. In in the garden, it's there for us so that we can understand also when when we face just everyday life and times, also the big things, the enormity of things. Then we have some guides on how how we also are to pray.

And so we're going to just see this. So I'm going to read it now. Please follow along. It'll be up on the screen. If you don't have your Bibles and your or your app, open this morning. Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane. And he said, sit here while I go over there. And, to pray.

He took Peter and Zebedee, two sons, James and John. And he became anguished and distressed. He told them, my soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me. He went a little further, praying, and bowed with his face to the ground, praying. My father, if it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me.

Yet I want your will to be done, not mine. Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray so that you will not be, give into temptation, for the spirit is willing, but the body is weak. Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, My father, if this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.

When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they could not keep their eyes open. So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. Then he came to the disciples and said, go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look, the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

And so the circumstances of this, this prayer that that Jesus is facing to get a real grasp of all that is happening here, it's really helpful to go back into the Old Testament, into the book of Isaiah, into chapter 53. Then Isaiah 53 really is a prophecy about the four coming of Jesus. And in this particular, verse that we're going to read really sets the scene for what is happening in the garden itself.

And the beginning of the crucifixion scene that Jesus will face. Isaiah 53, verse ten, it says, yet I it was, yet it was the will of the Lord. Think about this, yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him. To crush who? What is the prophecy of what would be happening to Jesus? And literally in the garden, the scene that we're seeing play out right now in the olive grove and the Simone, literally, as Jesus is moving into this moment, the crushing is is happening to Jesus.

And it's no accident, by the way, that at this particular moment in time, Jesus is in the garden, literally Gethsemane, which is literally called the garden of pressing or the garden of crushing. That is what is

happening to Jesus the sins. Think about this just for a moment. The sins of humanity. So the the crucifixion, as awful as it was in every physical sense, just as awful and horrific as as anybody as anything has been perpetrated on anybody in the history of time, in this particular moment.

Also, Jesus is dealing with, the spiritual sins that he took of yours and mine and the entire, humanity upon himself. And the crushing has begun in this particular moment in time. This is this is huge. This is enormous. The enormity of this particular moment in time and all that that is happening in here. And we're this this morning, we're seeing that his prayer that he prays is in step with the father.

And so let's talk about the will of God, really when it when it comes to the will of God. I think these two categories help us kind of understand the totality of the will of God. There's first the will of what we call will of decree. And the will of decree is literally how we see God as being sovereign and in control.

And again, when we when we get worked up, when we get anxious, when we get overwhelmed with worry, one of the best things that we can do is we can be reminded of the sovereignty of God, the the fact that God, yes, is in control. Although my life seems out of control, God is in control and therefore I can cast my cares upon him.

But there's the will of decree, and the will of decree in this particular moment is that God's purposes and his plans are going to work out, and his purpose and his plan since the very beginning of of creation has been this particular moment that Jesus would be crucified for humanity, and not just in a physical sense, but in every way.

He would take upon the sins of the world. And so God's purposes in his plans are working out in in our lives. Again, God's purposes and his plans will always come to pass. So there's the will of decree, and then there's the will of command, which is what we inherently deal with on a on a regular basis in our relationship with the, with the Lord.

And the will of command is simply we can just go back to the Ten Commandments. You have, do not have any other gods. No, don't have any other idols. Don't bow down to them. Don't steal, don't kill, don't lie like these. These are the things that God has told us to do. And in that relationship, we have the propensity to not do what God wills us to do.

We break God's will. We break the commands that he gives us. He tells us to, love him. He tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves. He tells us to love our enemies and all of these kind of things that he wills us to do in every possible way. And so there's there's the will of command. And again, we're talking a whole lot about prayer today.

And one of the things that I think we typically think about is, okay, I, I'm maybe you don't think of yourself as a good prayer, but you go I prayed and God God did not answer my prayer. And I want to say to you today, when it comes to the to the will of God and us praying to God, God will always answer your prayer.

He may not answer it the way you like. So when we when we get a yes from God, when we pray and and we we prayed, Lord, we pray for this person who's not, not doing well. And God heals that person. We say, God, way to go. And we we pray for another person. We say, God, can you can you heal this person?

He doesn't. We're going, where's the answer? The answer is no. So oftentimes we get the answer. We just don't like the answer. We get. And then sometimes it's a well, not now. And it's really hard to distinguish between the no and the not now because they feel really similar and they really are. And something that we might be praying for today that's a no.

Today may not be a no forever, but can I tell you that God is working, he's working. And when we pray, God, God works. And so for us as we pray, we have to trust that God has the right answer for all of our prayers and all kinds of prayers. What gets complicated is the circumstances and the enormity of the circumstances.

We feel like if if I if I pray for God's will, what if, what if God's will doesn't align with my will?

What if what I want God has another plan or another idea? And so we we we think, I'm I'm scared to pray God's will. I'm scared to pray if, Lord, here's here's what I hope for. But but let it be your will. And so there's a circumstances and the and the the higher the the level of the of the situation and the difficulty and the hardship and the frustration and the discouragement and the prayer, the more the more we're hopeful that the Lord will align with our will.

And yet, in this moment, Jesus literally had to sign off church on what God was willingly wanted him to be like here. Here it is. This is coming. And so Jesus signs off on it. And so it teaches like, hey, here's the circumstances. And again, let's not miss the enormity of the circumstance. But as we go through this, it's like, okay, now what happens?

And how does he pray? And he prays with with alignment, you know, you know what alignment is. If you if you have a car and you drive your car and, and you can tell if you don't have alignment in your car. And the way to do this is get like on a straightaway and you get some speed going.

And then you take your hands off the wheel, you go, look, no hands. And if your car goes to the right or to the left a little bit, you know that your alignments not really good and it needs some attention. And what happens if you don't get your car lined correctly? It it causes damage to your tires. It causes damage to your suspension.

And and it ends up causing a whole lot of problems. And that's the same thing when we're not in alignment with the Lord. Because alignment with the Lord isn't so much like, Lord, I'm going to pray, and I need you to align with my will and my plans and my purposes. Is prayer is designed so that we can align with the Lord's plans and his purposes.

It's more for us in every possible way. He's like, hey, here, here it is. We we pray and we align. And what happens to us is if we're out of alignment with the Lord and his plans and his purposes in our life, causes all kinds of hardships. And the farther we go away from his plans and his purposes and his alignment for us, the more discouragement and hardship and brokenness, frustration, pain it causes that will always go down that road.

And yet, when we're in alignment with the Lord.

It's just the opposite, because it gives us, it gives us when we're in alignment with the Lord and we start to do the things that he wants for us. Oh, it just changes everything. It gives us a lot of hope and peace and life, even when things are hard. Being aligned with the Lord is such a big deal.

So, I would if it's okay with you, I would like to share with you some prayers that can align us with the Lord. Would you like to have some prayers that would you? I'm glad you asked.

I think one of the things that we can pray for is integrity.

Particularly at work.

Like, I think when we go to work, there's a there's a push for us to not have integrity. I think sometimes we get asked to do things in our workplaces that we know are not right and not good, and yet our our struggle is, well, if I, if I do what I'm asked, if I do the thing that I'm being asked to do, which is being dishonest or maybe even outright stealing, I could I could get in trouble.

But if I choose not like if I choose not to do like, you're just you're struggling here and it's like, well, I'm going to I'm going to pray that I do the right thing at the right time. You know, even in even in the most

hard, difficult circumstances. I think we need to pray prayers about our families. I think we should be praying prayers about being good fathers and good mothers particularly.

Like right now. I mean, I don't know how many of you have kids. My guess is quite a few of you have kids and quite a few of you are grandparents. Some probably have some great grandparents in the room. Amen, Amen. Yeah. Any great greats in the room, by the way, here we go. Any triple greats? Any in greats?

No.

But but to be present. Like a present. Like not giving a gift. But I'm talking like be present like like when you're in the room, when you're home and you're. And you're there with your family and your kids, you're actually being attentive and focused. For a lot of guys, this is a struggle for us. We can be in a room and not be there.

We can be really far away and in another land somewhere. And so then, then we're there, but we're not present and we're not attentive. We're not focused, and then we have a potential to really not make an impact on our on our kids and to spend time with them. We only get a short amount of time with our family, particularly with our kids.

And when they're gone, they're gone. Like it goes quick. And so having that ability to go, hey, I'm going to lean in at this moment. I'm going to put away the distractions and and be like focused again. For guys, it's like it's like a gift and a curse to be there but also be not there. But we need to be there a whole lot more for our family.

Even when things are hard in other areas of life, we need to be attentive for for our family. We need to pray that we can be loving husbands and wives who respect their husbands in every way. We need to pray for our again, for our kids, for our grandkids, for our great Gran. Like we need to pray for them to know the Lord.

Like have that alignment where we're like, hey Lord, this is this is really important to us and we pray for them. We need to pray for our kids and their spouses like you need to start that, in the womb because that is such a big deal. Who your who your sons and daughters marry. We all know that like plays a huge role in the in their in their life and their ability to maintain their relationship with the Lord.

That's a big deal. We pray those kind of prayers in every way, and then we need to pray like prayers about having the fruit of the spirit, you know, love and joy and peace like aligning with the Lord like,

hey, Lord, I want to be. I want to be more loving. And I want to be. I want to have more joy and I want to have more peace.

I want to be patient. Lord, I don't want to go out after church today, and I don't want to run somebody off the road because they swerved in front of me like, I want to be patient, Lord, I want I want to have that alignment and like, just pray those prayers again, because alignment with the Lord brings a whole lot of peace and and joy in our life, and it gives us hope in every possible way.

So praying, praying those prayers.

I want I don't know if you guys know this or not, but there's a lot of ministry that happens during the life of the church during the week, and I'm grateful for for all of it. There's so many people who serve and do such good things and good work. And one of the areas that we have is our prayer ministry that meets on Wednesday morning at 9:00, and there's a group that comes together.

It's a small group, but they come together and have for so many years. And they pray. They pray over the life of the church. They pray for the church, they pray for people's issues, and they're so faithful. And I'm so I'm so grateful for them because they have made such a big difference, for this church, praying and being consistent with their prayer.

And then we have some new, new ministry called Prayer Warriors that have just started. And you'll see some of the people with the yellow shirts on and, and they're there all throughout the campus on Sunday morning. And they literally have a shirt like it says, ask me to pray. And so here's part of our hope through the series that as we go through, it's not just a four week series.

And we finish off we go. Yeah, we did a series on prayer. Good job. But our hope is that this church becomes a church that really prays when we get together. So we come in on Sunday morning. You should see people praying all over the place in our and our thinking should be, this is what we do. We pray for each other.

And then on Sunday, when church ends, we should see people coming down to the front to be prayed for like that should be just normal for us that we pray. Pray all kinds of prayers. But prayers of alignment are really important. Not only are prayers of alignment important, but kingdom prayers are important as well. When Paul talked last week, one of the parts of prayer in the Lord's Prayer is, Lord, your kingdom come, your will be done.

So what are what are some kingdom prayers? I bet you're wanting to ask me, what are kingdom prayers? Go ahead. I'm. I'm so glad you asked me that. By the way, repetition and prayer is really

good example of that. Jesus prayed three times. Like it specifically mentions that. So we understand. Oftentimes we go, well, I prayed once, well, it's okay to pray more than once.

It's okay. Pray more than twice. It's okay to pray more than three times. It's okay to keep praying to the Lord and keep giving it to the Lord. And in that, in that way. But here's some, here's some, really important prayers that are kingdom prayers we need to pray for, people who serve laborers in the field.

Matthew chapter nine. Jesus going through the towns, in the synagogues, he's like, hey, as he's looking around, he's seeing the people and he's he's overcome with with with sadness because he's looking at them. He's like, man, they're like sheep without a shepherd. He says, here's, here's the remedy. Pray to the Lord of the harvest. Why? Because the fields are wide open for harvest and there's no laborers.

There's a lot of people who need to know the good news of Jesus, but there's not a lot of people serving. And I'm going to tell you something. Not a lot's changed in 2000 years. Not a lot. There's still a wide open harvest for the for the field of telling people about the good news of Jesus and serving within the context of church.

And we need to pray for people to serve. And actually the great thing about us praying and praying and praying and praying, alignment prayers and kingdom prayers, is that hopefully it begins to change our heart and our willingness to to get in and be a part of it and to begin to live out those prayers in every way.

So we pray for laborers. We pray for conviction of sin. Yes, we need to be convicted of sin. We need to pray that the Lord gives us a heart, a soft heart, and not a calloused heart towards the sins in our life. We need to pray for, repentance. We need to pray for good soil. So a lot of us in this room, we have people in our life, maybe some some countries too, that we know, like they're just the good soil is like where people are either receptive to, to to God or not receptive.

Right? There's resistance or not. Resistance in this context are like the good soil, like pray, hey, we want to pray for countries. When I pray for people, groups pray for all kinds of people to to be receptive, to have good soil so that when somebody tells them about the good news of Jesus, they're they're ready to receive it and respond.

And it's going to take hold and stay rooted in that context. And so we want to pray for good soil. We, pray for, again, countries and people groups. But we also want to pray for specific people like, you know, and I know people who are resistant and not good soil. And they're so anti-God. They're so resistant, they're so agnostic, and they're so, just like they have a lot of vitriol towards, towards the, the kingdom and the work of God.

And so when we when we pray for them, sometimes we won't even pray because we think, they're a lost cause. Why should I pray for them? They don't want anything to do with God. So we pray for them. We need to not lose heart, not give up on people. I know that it can be a struggle sometimes.

We need to pray for God's glory as we're doing what we do, that people see what we do and and they just give all the glory to God. I think inherently the reason people do that is because they look at us and they go, it can't be you. It just can't be you. It can only be God working in you that makes this possible because they know us so well.

Advancing the the mission and the purposes of the church. I love what Paul asked the church to pray for in in Ephesians chapter six. So Paul, we always think of Paul like, hey, this guy went all over the world. He was a missionary. He got he got persecuted for his beliefs. He certainly didn't have an issue with being bold and courageous.

And yet in Ephesians he's like to the church in Ephesus he goes, if you guys want to pray for me, pray that when I open my mouth I may be bold to speak the good news as I should. I that's that's a Kingdom prayer that when we have the opportunity to step into that moment, that we're not shrinking back, but that we're stepping forward and we're being bold and courageous to speak in our in our prayers.

And so we pray Kingdom prayers because they're so important for for us to pray. And we need to be praying them consistently. And again, we talked about this already, but we we have the prayer wall out there. Am I encouragement to you again is to go out there and let's fill that thing up with so many prayers. There's prayers on top of prayers on top of prayers.

And you know, I noticed today I noticed that all the prayers are like on the upside of the house. So we need we need some people that like, get on their knees and put some prayers in the bottom. You know, maybe that's maybe the truth is that's where we really need to be is on our knees when we pray.

So we submit ourselves and our humble ourselves to the Lord. So as we wrap up the story, it's interesting again, the enormity of what? Of what is happening in this story. And Jesus, the the emotions that he's facing in his humanity, knowing what what's coming for him gives us some, some real indications. He literally says that my soul is crushed with grief.

And he prays, Lord, it's a cup. This cup of suffering, like what I know is coming and is already happening to me as I'm being crushed for your will. Like if that can pass. And yet he says, let it be

your will. And maybe today you're not facing the same enormity of what Jesus was facing. Certainly, none of us have.

But you're facing something really hard, something really difficult. And maybe you've been facing it for a long season. It's been hard, complicated. It's caused a lot of pain and frustration. My encouragement to you is to pray and ask God for healing or relief. But then say, Lord, let it be your will too. I think oftentimes what we what we struggle with is in those moments when we pray that.

I think what he's trying to teach us is that he is worthy of our trust. He's faithful to us. He's never he's never made any bones about you. And I have an a, a life free of hurt and pain and discouragement. Actually, he's said, hey, you're this world, this world right here. You will have trouble. No, we don't want to hear that.

We don't want to hear that we're going to have trouble. We want to hear. That's all going to be great. I mean, it's not what we signed up for when we became a follower of Jesus, that everything would be better after. And yet he's like, hey, that's that's not the deal. The deal is, I will be with you.

I will never forsake you. I'll walk through the darkness of the dark days with you. And so we keep praying. I keep praying prayers keep being faithful, keep praying with other people, having other people pray for us. By the way, when we pray for other people and sometimes we don't know exactly what to pray for them. But man, I got to tell you something.

We need to. We need to be understanding that when a lot of people come in the room on Sunday morning, I know it's the easy thing. How are you? I'm great. How are you? I'm fine. Everything is great. Everything is fine. Everybody is wonderful. We're the best of the best. And yet, if you really knew what was happening in their life, you'd be like, this is.

This is unbelievable. I had no idea you were going through this. We truly don't ever know what really, somebody is going through. We don't know what hardship and trouble they're facing. We don't know what sin they're. They're struggling with what what weight they're being pressed down on. And yet we can pray for one another. We can pray for each other.

And as we do that, here's what I think begins to happen when we pray. Let it be your will. Let your will be done. And the more we pray that prayer, here's what I believe. I believe, the more we pray that prayer that God's will becomes our will.

Because we align ourselves with him. So let it be your will, father, for us in every way, because we trust you. Let your will be done. Let's pray. Father, we thank you today. Thank you for your word. Thank you for the prayer that you showed us with Jesus and the intentionality of that and all that is happening in that circumstance.

And father, we couldn't imagine all that was going on. And you give us a glimpse into that. And, father, our prayer today as we pray, father, that that our will continues to align. Father, with your will. Father, help us to pray that prayer more and more and more. Help us to lean more on your your will and your plans and your purposes for our life.

Father, help us to, submit to your commands. Help us to submit to your lordship in our life. Father, let your will be done. We pray it in Jesus name. Amen.

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