

# *The Parchment*

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## *Whose Will Be Done?*

*Your kingdom come, your will be done (Matt. 6:10)*

I would like to think that I am an easy going guy when it comes to making decisions. As long as the decision follows agreed upon principles, and moves us toward our goals, I'm fine with whichever way we get there. Maybe one of the hardest decisions to make, however, is where to eat when I am with a group. The decision usually plays out in a predictable way. First everyone says they do not care where they eat. Then somebody finally makes a suggestion, at which time one or more people say they ate there already or they don't like that place. Eventually, we reach a compromise. I admit I'm one of those people who say they don't care, but in the end shares a strong opinion. This is human aspect of our human will—to want what we want when we want it.

When we come to the Lord's Prayer, however, the question of whose will be done is not up for compromise or negotiation. The prayer is that the Heavenly Father's "will be done on earth as it is in heaven." The implication here is that the Father's will is done in Heaven, but not yet in our world and in our lives. When we pray this prayer, we are both submitting to God's will and expressing our desire to participate in what He wants to be done. This prayer allows us to bring those aspects of our lives (that are outside of God's purpose for us) before Him so our desires align with His. As our eating out illustration shows, giving up our will for small decisions is hard enough. Giving up our will in more meaningful decisions can become a true battle of wills. When we pray "your will be done" we stop fighting and submit to God.

In this prayer we also submit our lives to God to do His will *through* us in the world. The world stands opposed to God's ways and Word. When we live for Him boldly and courageously, we tell the world who is the ultimate intended King. One day God's reign will rule the earth—until then we can pray that it comes quickly.