

## **Four Words: Thy Will Be Done (from Matthew Kelly)**

When was the last time you paused to really think about your life? Was it last week? Last month? Or a long time ago..... Very often when people are asked that question, they search their minds for an answer, and then they will say things like, "I honestly cannot tell you, I think about things that are happening in my life, or decisions that I need to make, but I can't remember the last time I purposely made time to think about my life and how I am living it."

Resistance loves to keep us busy. When we are too busy to reflect on how we are living our lives, it is almost certain that we are not busy doing the right things. There may be just four words that embody the challenge of the Christian life; we find them in the fifth line of the Our Father: "Thy will be done". These four words may present the greatest challenge of Christianity.

- How do we react to these four words?
- How you they make you feel?
- When you first read them, how did your body react?

Maybe it depends on our image of God. If we see God as far away, trying to control everything and everyone, we probably react to these words as an infringement on our personal freedom. If we see God as a loving father who wants good things for us even more than we want them for ourselves, who always has our best interest at heart, then we may react very differently.

- What is my image of God?
- How do I see him?
- What are his attributes?

Our image of God is the lens through which we see ourselves, others, and the world. Our spirituality is particularly impacted by the way we see God.

Jesus is constantly presenting a beautiful image of God. It is only in the context of this true image that we can fully embrace those four words: Thy will be done.

[John 3:16](#) ESV "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- When was the last time you knew exactly what God was inviting you to do in a situation but you did the opposite?
- We all fall into this willful rejection of Thy will be done. We become proud and arrogant and willful, and with our actions we scream, "My will be done!" But does it make us happy?

Do we agree with this statement... We live in a culture that says the meaning of life is to get what we want, and that when we get what we want, then we will be happy. We yearn for happiness because we were created for it, so we fall for the lie. We race off into the world to get what we want, but sooner or later we all realize that getting what we want doesn't make us happy.

### **The Prayer Process: *One concept to consider***

#### **1 Gratitude**

- a Begin by thanking God in a personal dialogue.

#### **2 Awareness**

- a Revisit the times in the 24 hours when you were and were not the best version of yourself. Talk to God about these situations and what you learned from them.

#### **3 Significant moments**

- a Identify something you experienced in the last 24 hours and explore what God might be trying to say to you through that event or person.

#### **4 Peace**

- a Ask God to forgive you for any wrong you have committed against yourself, another person, or Him and fill you with a deep and abiding peace.

#### **5 Freedom:**

- a Speak with God about how He is inviting you to change your life, so that you can experience the freedom to be the best version of yourself.

**6 Others**

- a Lift up to God anyone you feel called to pray for today, asking God to bless and guide them

**7 Pray the *Our Father*.**