

## NOT MY WILL

LUKE 22:35-46 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD  
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*To be able to personally say, “Not my will, but God’s be done” means recalling what he has done in the past (22:35), preparing for what is yet to come (22:36-38), following Jesus no matter where he takes me (22:39), and praying even when it is difficult to do so (22:40-46).*

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Is your image of surrender more like the trudging soldiers who are giving up before their enemy or the individual Christian with hands raised at a worship concert or on some beautiful mountainside?

Why do we need to have the right idea of surrender in mind as we seek to follow Jesus?

Can you recall an easygoing time when you lacked nothing as you sought to obey the Lord? How did that time of not really needing anything help you to grow in Christ?

In contrast to that easygoing time, do you feel as though following Christ has ever led you to experience a trial of uncertainty, stress, and possibly danger? What do these times tend to reveal about your level of commitment to Jesus?

*“Accepting the will of God will always be difficult, as it was difficult for Jesus. It will always be a challenge to pray for God’s will to be done because the path that he lays out for us is not likely to be easy. And we will have these intense, emotionally-charged times in our lives when we are pleading with the Father to do it a different way.”*

Even though the disciples were told to take things with them, they were to plan to travel light and strategically (v. 36-38). How do you determine what is enough money, food, and protection needed to continue Christ's mission in a world that is so materialistically oriented and comfort driven?

In verse 39, the disciples literally follow Jesus to the Mount of Olives where he plans for them all to spend time in private prayer. This was his custom and presumably they often went with him. Why do you think Jesus led his disciples to pray before he led them into surrender?

***As readers we get a front row see to Jesus' private prayers. We know about his deep anguish and desire for God to "remove this cup of suffering" from him. The tension and temptation to deny God's will is at the highest point we've ever seen it in Jesus's life so far. Yet, Jesus resolves to do his Father's will through a gut-wrenching, tear evoking, sweaty and sleepless night of prayer.***

Have you ever experienced anguish in prayer about what God wants you to do? How does this text let you know that God is close to you in moments of such deep anguish?

When it comes to personal suffering, can people resolve the emotional tension between not wanting to do God's will and wanting it at the same time without gut-wrenching prayer?

***Jesus prayed earnestly and brought his deepest emotions directly to his father. The disciples were also grieved, but they fell asleep overcome by their intense sorrow. Jesus exhorts them to "rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation." It can be difficult to pray effectively when we are overcome emotionally but that is how disciples receive the strength needed to resist temptations to follow their own will instead of God's.***

Has overwhelming emotion stopped from you from praying? Who or what could help you pray effectively through your next difficult and emotionally intense circumstance?