

(Matthew 16:21-27, NIV84)

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!"

he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."

July 11

Afraid To Let God's Will Be Done?

Thy will be done. Matthew 6:10

Yes, we must admit it, there are times when we are afraid to let God's will be done! Like Simon Peter, we can so easily see the pleasant detour around the cross, while our Lord directs us to take the straight hard road that leads to our own little Gethsemane and to our own little Calvary.

Why must this happen to me? Why this string of sudden reverses, painful disappointments, and bitter disillusionments? Why must I struggle on day after day with these "fightings and fears within, without"? Why? Why?

It takes real faith to stand up under the burden of our cross and say to our God:

Thy way, not mine, O Lord, however dark it be.
Lead me by Thine own hand; Choose Thou my path for me.
I dare not choose my lot; I would not if I might.
Choose Thou for me, my God; So shall I walk aright.

And yet it is only in that complete surrender and submission to our Father's will that the burden of our cross is lightened. When we see our Father's hand in our cross, we will see his hand on the underside, helping us to bear it.

We may not be able to understand or to explain the reason for one particular

cross, but we will not need to understand it or explain it if we know that our gracious Father has placed it there, and that, through Christ, his thoughts toward us are thoughts of kindness and of mercy. Praise God, for his thoughts are infinitely better than our thoughts, and his ways are infinitely better and higher and wiser than our own.

If, at times, we are afraid to submit to what evidently is God's will for us, let us remember the poet's words:

Beloved, it is well! God's ways are always right,
And perfect love is o'er them all, Though far above our sight.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)