

# MT. SPOKANE CHURCH

A HEART LIKE MINE

*Discovering God's Will for Your Life*

**'Courage to Go Against the Wind'**

**Message 2 of 8**

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- We often battle to convince God to do what we want done.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 9:20-22.

*"She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment."*

Matthew 9:21-22 (NIV)

- The Greek word for healed is "sozo" (σώζω). It means saved, delivered, made whole, healed, kept safe from danger, destruction, or suffering.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 1:20-21.

*"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* Matthew 1:20-21 (NIV)

- God's will is often experiencing God's peace, His healing wholeness and protection in the midst of challenges that don't go away until we reach heaven. God uses earthly suffering.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to 1 Peter 4:12-13.

*"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."* 1 Peter 4:12-13 (NIV)

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to 1 Peter 4:18-19.

*"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."* 1 Peter 4:18-19 (NIV)

- God's will is not found by pursuing worldly health, wealth, pleasure, power and possessions.

## **3 Biblical Principles to Help Us Understand God's Will When Facing Challenges**

**BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE #1: Selfishness ambition hinders finding God's will.**

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 19:23-30.

*“Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?” Matthew 19:24-25 (NIV)*

- Jesus spoke this after the rich ruler had refused to give up worldly pursuits to follow Christ. The disciples were astonished; they measured ‘being saved’ by worldly ease and success.
- People’s questions can reveal wrong motives of selfish ambition.
- Like the rich young ruler, the apostles wanted to experience God’s will on their own terms with an eye towards how it was going to benefit them and their own personal agenda.

**BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE #2: Selfishness ambition is a wrong motive for doing God’s will.**

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 20:1-16.

*“These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ “But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’”*

Matthew 20:12-13 (NIV)

- Jesus continues addressing selfish ambition. His parable is not about salvation but servicing God. The “penny” does not stand for salvation or eternal life, because salvation is not by good works.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)*

- It is also important to note that in this parable Christ is not talking about rewards for service.

*“The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.”*

1 Corinthians 3:8 (NIV)

- God will reward His servants each differently - individually according to their service, if the “penny” stands for rewards, then God is not fair, for every worker got the same reward.
- Jesus is addressing the disciple’s problem of selfish ambition as motive for serving and doing God’s will. Peter’s question revealed his motive – it was the same as the grumbling workers.

*“We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”*

Matthew 19:27 (NIV)

- This parable teaches that God has a right to do what He pleases with those who serve Him.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 20:15.

*“Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?” Matthew 20:15 (NIV)*

- The Greek word for envious is “*poneros*” (πονηρός). It means evil or wicked. It speaks of

something of a bad condition, diseased, or blind.

- Jesus teaches that we must serve God **thankfully** out of love and loyalty, not just for rewards.  
⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 3:12-15.

*“If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.”* 1 Corinthians 3:12-14 (NIV)

- It is a solemn thing to realize that Christians whom we may admire today will be “last” in the final reckoning at the Judgment Seat of Christ because their motives were **wrong**.

### **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE #3: Selfish ambition opposes God’s will.**

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 20:17-28.

*“What is it you want?” he asked. She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”* Matthew 20:21 (NIV)

- Whenever Jesus taught about His death it evoked varied responses, at different times, from the disciples. Then, as today, God’s people are slow to grasp the full **message** of the cross.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 16:21-25.

*“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.”* Matthew 16:23-25 (NIV)

- Here the mother comes with a revealing question. She didn’t grasp the full message of the cross, which is about **death** to selfish ambition. In replying Jesus speaks to all His disciples.
- Jesus teaches that the truly great person is humble and serves others as He did. They put to death selfish gain. God’s will is **found** in self-denial not in pursuit of selfish-ambition.