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 Bridgeway Community Church
 Series: Winter Guest Speaker Series
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**WINTER GUEST SPEAKER SERIES:
 “Your Will Be Done” (Pastor Noemi Chavez)**

I. SERMON INTRODUCTION

Bridgeway Community Church, it is so good to be with you!

I am a church-girl through and through. I grew up in Long Beach, California, in a home where my father was a struggling alcoholic and my mother was a woman of prayer. I came to faith at the age of 12 and can say that the greatest gift I have ever received in my life was coming to know Christ and to walk with him through every season.

I love the Word of God, and I want us to go together now to the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6...

- 9 *“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*
(Matthew 6:9-10 NIV)

Prayer is a relational act. Jesus is teaching his disciples to pray because he wants them to engage with God in an intimate, confident relationship. But he also wants us to come to the Father knowing that God does have a PLAN. He has a purpose for us. God uses our history, our culture, our background and desires to weave a narrative for us of redemption, strength, and healing.

And Jesus is teaching us to be the kind of people who pray, “Lord, YOUR kingdom come and YOUR will be done” in our life.

Question:
But how does God speak his will and his kingdom into our lives?

Through prayer, yes. But also through the Body of Christ!

God uses the family of Jesus, the church, as a way that he brings our life, our story, our will into alignment with his kingdom and his will. To pray, “your kingdom come and your will be done,” is to bend your will to God and to his purposes for you.

And that means that we cooperate with God's plans, not God cooperating with our plans. We were created for his pleasure, for his glory and purposes! When we embrace this reality, there is a new trust that emerges.

Main Point:

**This means we don't base our faithfulness to God
on his willingness to cooperate with *our* plans**

- *"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV)*

There are times in my life when I don't feel like living for Jesus or treating people the way he would have me treat them. And the Lord has to grab hold of me and say, "You are not your own!"

- *5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.
(Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV)*

This means God is not excluded from any part of our life: our dreams, our pain, our heartache, our failures. *Make JESUS Lord above your preferences!*

My mom grew up in a little town in Mexico, and there were only 2 priests who served their village. You never knew when the priest was coming, but when the bells started ringing in the town, that was when you knew you needed to drop what you were doing and go into the house of God to celebrate Mass. In one instance, my mom started a fire to make tortillas; they had the corn dough ready and the embers in the fire were perfect for cooking; everything was set for them to make some delicious food.

And all of a sudden, the church bells began to ring. And my grandmother took a cup of water and threw the water on the perfectly prepared embers. My mother began to freak out since she was excited to eat delicious food and didn't want to go to church! And my grandmother said to her, "My daughter, this is only temporary; *we must seek what is eternal.*"

How often do we seek temporary pleasures instead of seeking what is eternal?

So let's dive together into the Gospel of Mark, chapter 5, and let's see where we can find ourselves in this scripture passage.

II. JESUS, JAIRUS, AND JAMES

Let's go together now to the Gospel of Mark, chapter 5...

- *21 Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. 22 And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet 23 and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her; that she may be healed, and she will live." 24 So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him. (Mark 5:21-24 NKJV)*

Now let's just pause to note something. Jairus is a ruler of the synagogue. He is connected to the very leaders who would conspire with the Romans to crucify Jesus. But he is *desperate*. What are we not willing to do for our kids?

How many of you know that the only reason you continue to pursue Jesus is when all of your friends and the pressures of our culture are telling you to abandon your faith, simply because you are desperate for him. You know his power and goodness and you can't disregard it. And when you get into desperate situations, you know that you need him!

- *Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, 26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. 28 For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." 29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the [a]affliction. 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" 31 But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" 32 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. 33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. 34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction." (Mark 5:25-34 NKJV)*

I love this part of the story because as Jesus stops to heal the woman with the issue of blood, I imagine Jairus just wanting Jesus to hurry up!

Have you ever asked God to do something for you, and he is answering someone else's prayer?

- How did she get a man and I didn't?
- How did they get a house?

- How did their kids get into Ivy League schools and mine can't get out of bed?

But how many of us know our home is not destination based, but PRESENCE based? I'll go through hell and highwater as long as I sense Jesus' presence is with me.

Jairus needs Jesus to heal his daughter and this woman with the issue of blood interrupts Jesus. And then Jesus stops to start asking questions! I'd be like, "Okay Jesus, the miracle is done, can we just go?"

- *35 While [Jesus] was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" 36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." (Mark 5:35-36 NKJV)*

I love that Jesus doesn't address the naysayers, he addresses Jairus. I love that God will hear the people who tell you, "You can't do it," and he doesn't even address them – you address *YOU!* Because he's a relational God. The Lord knows you will get negativity when you follow him, and he doesn't address the naysayers, he addresses *YOU: your faith, your trust, your purpose.*

- *37 And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. 38 Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. 39 When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping." 40 And they ridiculed Him. (Mark 5:37-40 NKJV)*

And they will ridicule you too! But the voice of the Living God says, "Don't listen to them, but keep your focus on me! Believe in me and remember who I am!"

We need to trust that what God can do is so much better than what we can create. But it also says...

- *"But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying." (Mark 5:40 NKJV)*

Sometimes you need to put a distance between yourself and the people who won't believe with you what God can do *in you* and *through you*. You have to be the adult and draw that boundary.

Satan's plan is not to keep you in pain, but to separate you from the Savior. And he will use both pain and pleasure to try to keep you from Jesus.

That means that you have to sometimes put a boundary between what will keep you from closeness with the Savior – sometimes that will even mean getting some space from good things to focus fully on Jesus and tune into the Spirit of God...

- *Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, “Talitha, cumi,” which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, arise. 42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.”*
(Mark 5:41-42 NKJV)

How many times have we seen God do the impossible in our life? How many times has God taken our sadness and pain and given us a garment of praise?

But it is in the context of COMMUNITY where God guides us, strengthens us, directs us and leads us. It's not enough to just make space from, but you also need to intentionally get into community with the people of God who can encourage and strengthen you as you wait on God and follow the Lord beyond your own preferences.

But what happens when you ask God to do a miracle or to give you something, and he doesn't answer in the way you expected?

EXAMPLE - In our own church community a few years back, we had a three month period where 4 of our leaders and community members all died in unexpected ways. Within 3 months... And we had to ask ourselves, “Will we continue to follow Jesus even when we don't understand? Do we trust he is still the Living God who can work new wonders when our surroundings are marked by Death?

Remember that the scripture said in verse 37 that, “[Jesus] permitted no one to follow Him [into the room] except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.” (NKJV)

I want to read something to you from a few years after this that's recorded in the Book of Acts...

- *Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. 2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. 4 So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. (Acts 12:1-4 NKJV)*

The same James who followed Jesus into a room of death and saw him work a wonder of healing, just a few years later is led into a jail cell and murdered by the sword.

Peter was also in the little girl's room with Jesus and James; Peter was also taken into jail around the same time that James was. Peter was rescued by angels and James was killed by the sword...

What does it mean for us to be the kind of believers who pray, "Your kingdom come and your will be done"? When things don't work out the way we want, will we still press in and commit to the Body of Christ, trusting that God is good? Will we still surrender our preferences?

Will we still say, "Your kingdom come, your will be done"?

III. CONCLUSION

Personally, I will trust in him. Because Jesus won't call us to live and lead in such a way that he hasn't lived and led himself...

- *36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*
(Matthew 26:36-39 ESV)

Friends, following Jesus is not for the faint of heart. Following Jesus will take you into rooms where he works wonders you never could have imagined. But it also means he will bring you into rooms where you have to surrender your preferences and say, "*Not MY will, but YOUR WILL be done... Still, I will follow you.*"

Like the first disciples of Jesus, we have to know that following Jesus and being with him is more important than our goals and controlling the outcomes of what we want for our life.

By the way, God can handle your tantrums in those tough situations! He is not dimmed by it, and he is still mighty to save!

This is the reality of life. Our faith will be challenged. Don't give up! Don't give up praying or coming together to worship.

When we follow the Savior and he leads us to a cross, may we say: "Let CHRIST live in me... Let HIS purpose live in me and HIS goodness reign in me... *Lord, YOUR kingdom come and YOUR will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" Amen & Amen.