

1Thy Will, Not Mine, Be Done
Wednesday, March 11, 2009
Rev. Paul Johns

Galatians 2:20-21
Mark 14:32-42

It is certainly one of the most emotional stories in the Bible. It is also the classic passage in the Bible for the words – “Thy will be done.” It takes place in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus says, “Wait here; I am going forward to pray.” Pray is what Jesus did at many crucial times in his life, and this was most crucial.

Then Jesus comes back and finds the disciples sleeping. And this happened three times, because they were just plain tired. Our text says that their eyes were heavy. Jesus says, “Could you not watch and pray with me for one hour. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” You are good people, but you need the help of God. You are not going to make it on your own power.

Peter even tries to assure Jesus that, even though others get weak and fall, he will remain strong. “No, Peter, before morning you will deny me three times.”

Now I would like to jump to that passage read earlier which Martin Luther called the basic definition of what is a Christian. A Christian is – It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me.

There are two choices. I will do what I will or I will do what God wills. Peter was a good person, but he tried to make it on his own.

A non-Christian is one who tells Jesus, “Here I am, but I rule my life. I am the captain of my soul.”

By contrast, the Christian says, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” Yes, there are lots of persons who are worse than I am, but I am not perfect and I need and want your loving, forgiving help. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. I pray with Jesus, “Not my will but thine be done.” I pray the Lord’s Prayer – “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Amen.