

## **Weekly Devotions: TO LOVE GOD IS TO OBEY HIM 15**

### **How far would you go to obey God's Will?**

It is not enough to know God's will, to think about His will, or even to profess or discuss His will. True faith is to have a reverent fear of God and an eagerness to please Him by doing His will. We demonstrate our love for God by obeying His will, regardless of what it may cost us; be it rebuke, humiliation, ridicule or even imprisonment.

Jesus set the example for us of what it means to live for God alone; to do His bidding at any cost, to lay down our own lives for the sake of others, to submit gladly to the wishes and will of God our Father. Jesus said He had not come to do His own will but to do the will of His Father. He said; "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work" (John 4: 34). The Son of God came as man, lived and died to do His Father's will. So how far would you go to obey God's will?

### **Read Matt 26: 36-46; Luke 22: 39-48**

Was it easy for Jesus to do the God's will, that is, to be crucified so that the sins of humankind would be forgiven? The answer is 'No!' On the night Jesus was betrayed and arrested, He prayed intensely in the garden of Gethsemane. Luke recorded; "And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22: 44).

Jesus asked His Father to spare Him from what was about to take place; the Son of God betrayed, suffered, beaten, slandered, humiliated and finally, nailed on the cross. But in spite of His deep struggle, our Lord was ready to put aside His own interests to submit to the Father's will. Three times He prayed to be spared and three times He prayed; "...not as I will, but as you will" (39, 42, 44). Hallelujah.

### *Questions to ponder*

1. What was Jesus' state of mind and what did He pray three times on the night of His arrest? What was the will of the Father for Jesus to do at that time?
2. God's will is for us to continue the work of Jesus in bringing people to Christ (Acts 1:8). How can you obey this particular will of the Father this week? What price are you ready to pay to obey God's will for world evangelization?
3. In what area of your life do you need to say to God, "Not my will but Your will be done"?