

## Teach us to Pray (5)

### Chat with the Children: Simon Says

- Introduce "Simon says" game
    - perhaps play it a bit...
  - Pick up on why people get it wrong:
    - don't hear right
    - get confused in the excitement and pressure of the game
    - don't want to play!
  - "Your will be done..."
    - game can be one way of thinking about doing what God wants, not what we want
    - and when we pray "Your will be done..." we are asking God to help us avoid the kinds of things that will stop us doing what he wants
- Pray**
- your will be done...

### Introduction

- A couple of weeks back, when introducing "Your Kingdom Come" with the children I asked what folk would like for Christmas...
  - got the usual range of responses!
  - but we know everything we want won't come to pass, for a variety of reasons...
  - it may be that its not practical - too big for a small garden or something like that!
  - it may be that it is too expensive
  - it may be that its not actually what is good for the person receiving it - parents having to make the decision not to get the whatever the latest fashionable toy is because they know it has little play value, or will break, or have experience of their kids playing more with the box than with the toy....
- Those of us who give gifts to children know that we have a responsibility to think carefully about what we give, for some of these reasons
- And we also know we need to exercise the same kind of restraint the rest of the time, not just at Christmas...
  - easy enough to fill a trolley at the supermarket with stuff we don't need, is too expensive, isn't good value, will make us unwell if we eat too much of it...
- Jesus, as he encourages us to pray, and throughout his earthly life, showed us that his kingdom has this vein of restraint running through it:
  - restraint not for our own sake, but for God's best

### Your will be done: Negative

*Yet not what I will... (v.36a)*

- In the Christmas example, I gave fairly negative examples:
  - too big, too expensive, not good for the receiver, etc...
  - we hold ourselves back to avoid bad consequences
- And there is that same "negative" side to Jesus' example and the phrase from the Lord's Prayer, "Your will be done"
  - did Jesus want to die? to endure the physical pain of the Cross? to be rejected by the Jewish people, whose Messiah he truly was? to be disowned by his friends, those close followers with whom he'd spent the last two or three years?
- **NO!!**
- Of course not!
  - yet he did, submitting himself not to his own desires and plans but to God's

- desires and plans
  - knowing that God's plans were best, God's ways were best, and so relinquishing to God the direction of his life
  - because God is God
- Oh, but this is hard!
  - we live in a self-centred, independent minded society
  - many of us - myself very much included! - rankle against anyone telling us what we should do!
  - is God Lord? Will we submit to him, to his will?
- The phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "Your will be done...", is an aligning ourselves with God's will
  - an expression of our desire to submit to his way of doing things, even as we recognise that it will be hard!
  - (like the disciples falling asleep!!)

## Your will be done: Positive

*...but what you will. (v.36b)*

- Easy to get into a very negative mindset over this!
  - not what I want... submit... etc!
- But there is a tremendously positive backdrop to the specific decision Jesus made here not to do his own thing
  - Jesus comes to earth, lives his life, with one goal in mind
  - he comes to reconcile people to himself and to his Father
  - he comes to adopt Fatherless humans into the family of God, where they are meant to be
  - he comes to defeat Satan, to conquer death, to bring life...
  - and he comes knowing that the way that will be done is through his own death on the Cross
- Already he has turned his path towards Jerusalem, to the place where he knew he would be handed over to death (Mark 10:33, Matthew 16:21, Luke 9:51, etc)
  - he is positively deciding that God's plan is best, that God's purpose is best, that the rescue of humanity is worth his own pain, rejection and even death
- We too can enter into positive partnership with God:
  - his will is best, not just because it avoids bad stuff
  - but much more because his will, his way, brings life
  - don't want to speak to someone about Jesus? Your will be done... Possibility of new eternal life...
  - don't want to take time to get to know that person... positively show love of God

## Conclusion

- This is a prayer of submission
- This is a prayer of vision, of God's Kingdom