

## WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Jesus said: **“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.” (John 6:38)** That’s what Jesus said, what do you say? As you plan activities for the day, does it matter at all to you what God wants?

The original sin of “self will” was not committed by Adam and Eve, but by Satan. He said in his heart: **“I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” (Isa 14:13-14)** That’s what Satan said, what do you say?

John the Baptist also said some things about why he was born. He said: **“A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.’ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less” (John 3:27 - 30).** That’s what John the Baptist said, what do you say?

When Peter and the apostles were threatened for preaching Christ, they said: **“We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:29)** That’s what the apostles said, what do you say?

When the Holy Spirit warned Paul that he was going to suffer in Jerusalem, he said: **“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-- the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.” (Acts 20:24)** That’s what Paul said, what do you say?

When Isaiah saw the Lord seated upon His throne, and when he realized that God wanted to send someone to preach to His people, he said: **“Here am I. Send me!” (Isa 6:8)** That’s what Isaiah said, what do you say?

Job was in doubt as to why he was called upon to suffer, but he was not in doubt about his need to serve God. He said: **“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:” (Job 13:15 KJV).** That’s what Job said, what do you say?

Solomon spent many years searching for the meaning of life. At last he concluded: **“Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man.” (Eccl 12:13)** That’s what Solomon said, what do you say?

This is not rocket science! The Sovereign of the Universe is a jealous God and will not be trivialized. Someone has defined sin as “I want, what I want, when I want it”. God did not tolerate such self centered rebellion in Satan, and He will not tolerate it in you and me. The most difficult decision Jesus had to make involved this very question. Was He going to do His own will, or the will of the Father Who sent Him? In the final analysis, this is the same decision that you and I have to make every day. Will we do our own will, or the will of our Heavenly Father? The decision was not an easy one for Jesus. That’s why He asked for Peter, James, and John to tarry and watch with Him. That’s why His soul was sorrowful even to the very point of death (Matt. 26:38). That’s why His sweat was like great drops of blood falling to the ground (Lk. 22:44). That’s why an angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him (Lk. 22:43). Jesus emerged from Gethsemane, however, with the steadfast determination to do the will of God. He was faithful until death. He did not die until He had done everything that God had ordained for Him to do. Then, and only then, did He cry out “It is finished!” and yield His Spirit back to God.

The decision will not be easy for you and me. We too need the help of godly friends, and the ministry of angels. We too need to agonize to resist those selfish, and self centered thoughts that Satan sends our way like fiery arrows.

What do you say? With the heart man believes, but with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. There is something spiritually profound about our words, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Let us therefore say to God; “not my will but thine be done”!.