

Summary of the sermon – October 13, 2013, 14h30

**Reading of the Holy Scriptures: Judges, chapter 6:1-14, 36-40; chapter 7:1-8
Heidelberg Catechism – Lord's Day 49**

124. Q. What is the third petition?

A. *Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

That is:

Grant that we and all men
may deny our own will,
and without any murmuring
obey your will,
for it alone is good.

Grant also that everyone
may carry out the duties
of his office and calling
as willingly and faithfully
as the angels in heaven.

Theme of the sermon:

Praying for doing Fathers will.

1. Hard prayer?

'*Your will be done*'; it is a hard prayer on two sides. It causes many questions about Gods government of the world. For example: Is it Gods will that numerous children live in deep misery or die by war?

On the other side it is hard to obey the commandments of the Lord. Even without comment. Thus the question is: What's Gods will?

Moses says: "*There are things hidden, and they belong to the LORD our God, but what is revealed belongs to us and our children for ever; it is for us to observe all that is prescribes in this law.*" (Deuteronomy 29:29)

2. Self-denial

In Gods kingdom Fathers will is law. The citizens of that kingdom have to respect Gods will. But obedience is hard for children and for us. For our thoughts go into a different direction. You will is a moving force in you. It urges you to make choices.

God created man with a good willingness. But that changed at the Fall. Since then our will is wrongly directed.

Therefor Jesus learns us praying: Father, grant that we deny our will. That is hard for us. Our will crashes into Gods will.

Accept the place God gives you. We pray for all men, that they obey the law of God.

3. Surrender

God gave Gideon a strange order. Still he did what God said to him. He needed a confirmation of the words of God. God gave him a sign.

Our task is much easier. However...

Christ means for us an active obedience. Surrendering to God is an active deed. We have to join our will to Gods will.

Jesus said: *"It is meat and drink for me to do the will of him who sent me until I have finished his work."*(John 4:34) And in the count of Gethsemane he prayed: *"Father, if it be thy will, take this cup away from me. Yet not my will but thine be done."* (Luke 22:41,42)

God don't blame us for our questions about his policy. He promises us: "I am with you." He also promised that to Gideon.

We have to pray for active submission to God and for rest and peace.

God answers our prayers in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

4. Active service

In the third petition of the Lord's Prayer it's a matter of the full time job as believers on the road into Gods Kingdom.

God wants to see fidelity in our work and life like the angels in heaven.

Christ learns to pray for heaven on earth. Our task is: to do Gods will and live as a Christian.

God's Word and commandments are nearby. Be faithful, also in the small things.

Pray for a life according to Fathers will.