

Considering the Father's Will

By Scott Moller

"I and the Father are one."
(John 10:30 NIV)

How often do you begin your day asking yourself what the Father's will is for the day ahead? I must confess I rarely do. My head is usually full of all of the things I have planned for the day and what I want to accomplish. But that is not how it was with Jesus during His earthly ministry as He set for us the perfect example of being in the Father's will. He never set out on His own accord but steadfastly and single-mindedly fulfilled the Father's will for each day.

We see this principal at work in John 11, when Jesus receives the news of Lazarus' illness. Our typical response would be to set out at once, rushing headlong to the aid of our sick friend. But this was not how Jesus reacted. *"Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days"* (John 11:5-6). Jesus understood it was not God's will for Him to set out immediately. *"Jesus said 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' ...then He told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him'"* (John 11:4, 14-15). It was God's will that Jesus accomplish more than simply physically healing Lazarus in order to bring glory to the Father and the Son.

God tells us, *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:9). In other words, God's ways and thoughts are greater than our natural ways and thoughts. God's ways and thoughts cannot be determined by our flesh but only by the Holy Spirit. We see Jesus seeking His Father's will often as He spent time in prayer.

Even at the very end before His crucifixion as He prayed, *"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will"* (Matthew 26:39), Jesus submitted His will and sought the will of the Father. As Christians, Jesus calls for us to pick up our crosses and follow Him—obediently giving up our lives (setting aside our will) in order to follow the Father's will for His purposes. May we begin each day seeking the Father's will for the day. Amen.