

WHO'S DRIVING THIS BUS ?

A STUDY ON THE WILL OF GOD.

ILLUSTRATION // Who in the room is a meme king or queen! The person who has a meme for every one of life's moments...

If that is you, you may know this next meme - Play video of the meme who's driving this bus.....

[Who driving this bus meme tik tok](#)

Corny Tie in: This is funny video but my question tonight is who is driving the bus....you or God?

- Tonight we are looking at a story where we see two active will's at play in the life of Paul and the church of Ephesus!

BACKGROUND:

- Paul is at the church of Ephesus and he goes to the elders letting them know he was going to leave to minister in Jerusalem.
- The elders told him not to go because they were fearful he would die for preaching the gospel there!
- Paul knew he would most likely not come back, but he was being obedient to what God was asking him to do. (for context read Acts 20:22-23)
- Again, they begged him not to go; yet, he was unpersuaded and they prayed for the outcome to be favorable!
- This leads us to our scripture reading for the night.....

SCRIPTURE // Acts 21:10-14 pg.

“10 Several days later a man named Agabus, who also had the gift of prophecy, arrived from Judea. 11 He came over, took Paul's belt, and bound his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, “The Holy Spirit declares, ‘So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.’” 12 When we heard this, we and the local believers all begged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

13 But he said, “Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart! I am ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem but even to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus.” 14

When it was clear that we couldn't persuade him, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."

MAIN IDEA // NOT MY WILL, BUT GOD'S WILL!

POINT 1 // MY WILL

ILLUSTRATION // Think about a time in life where you had a specific plan thought out for yourself, but the outcome did not turn out the way you would have imagined (either for better or for worse!)

My story: planned to have a freaking rager birthday party when I turned 7, but only one person showed up. Turned out being the best party ever because I got to do the water slide as many times as I wanted because there was no line (lol)

- In the same way, how many times have we tried to follow OUR own plan for our lives, when God has a plan for us with a different outcome!
- In order to understand God's will, we must first understand what is our will?

What is 'my will'?

- MY WILL IS -> The desire or wish for an intended outcome, most preferably in my own favor.

ACTS 21:4

- The church of Ephesus was actively trying to build a case for Paul not to go to Jerusalem!
- This was because they knew if Paul went, he would be severely persecuted even to the point of death!
- Sometimes in life, God will ask us to accomplish his will in a way that does NOT fit our own will for ourselves.
 - Who are the people or things around you that are trying to redefine the plan that God has already written for you?
 - This could be your friends, family, or even your own thoughts of how you can try to accomplish what God has asked you to do, but on your own terms!
 - It was not unbelievers who asked Paul to stay and continue his mission there, it was THE CHURCH!
 - Out of their love for Paul and commitment to Him, they did not want to see him suffer; however, God had a different plan that ultimately gave glory to Him!
 - God's plan is ultimately his Divine will.....

POINT 2 // GOD'S WILL

- **The Will of God:**
 - Is seen in the Great Commission, to go into all the world proclaiming the Gospel
 - Is seen through the cross, that we would be made whole in him
 - Is seen through his design for eternity, that we would be one with him forever!
- **How do we access the will of God: OBEDIENCE!**

Acts 20:24

- Paul could have stayed the course in his 'calling' as a minister of the Gospel in Ephesus, BUT the will of God was completed in his OBEDIENCE to go to Jerusalem even in the face of persecution.
 - Don't get so wrapped up in a 'call' that you forsake His will.
 - As youth, you can get so wrapped up in figuring out what your life's calling BUT God has a will for you RIGHT NOW in your schools, homes, and personal lives!
- As followers of Jesus, we are to be Obedient to God not to man!
 - The CHURCH, tried to persuade Paul not to go because of their love for him! They did not want to see him go through persecution....
 - Sometimes the people who love you the most can try to persuade you to redefine what God is asking you to do out of pure love for you.
 - We must remember that God's word + wisdom is so much greater than our own!
 - Do not confuse the concerns of others with the intentions of God!
 - God's intention was not to lead Paul to his death, instead it was his intention to lead the people of Jerusalem to their life....Jesus!
 - God may ask you to accomplish something that maybe your friends + your own family may not understand, but we must continue to run the race just as Paul did!
- **Paul knew from JUMP what was going to happen and the persecution he would face, yet he CHOSE to say yes to God's Will.**
 - In this moment, it was not Paul's own strength that allowed him to say yes to a difficult situation. It was the Holy Spirit that graced him with boldness and peace to persevere!
 - In the same way, many of you know exactly what hardships await you if you say YES to God's will....
 - I.e. social persecution, loss of friends, feeling of loneliness.....
 - We need the strength of the Holy Spirit to ultimately equip us to die to our own will and accomplish God's will!

ALTAR

- Give call for salvation!
- Some students may feel like Paul and have something God has asked them to do that they are reluctant about. Give time for students to pray for boldness and assurance to complete God's will!