

A TIME FOR SAFETY, A TIME TO RISK

“Your will be done on earth as in heaven” (Matthew 6:10)

OBSERVATIONS

“Your will be done on earth as in heaven” is the central line in the Lord’s prayer, shifting responsibility from God (your kingdom come) to us (your will be done on earth). This illustrates how we are “co-labourers with God” (1 Corinthians 3:9).

Jesus Himself is our supreme example of doing God’s will. He obeyed in two ways:

1. resisting temptation and staying pure, and
2. taking God’s love into the world.

Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey in both these ways.

In Luke 4:1, we read that the “Holy Spirit led (literally *threw*) Jesus out into the desert”, where he fasted forty days. There he faced three primary temptations – the lure of pleasure or comfort (bread), the lure of power (kingdoms of this world) and the lure of spectacular success (being rescued by God). By rejecting the devil’s advances He protected His purity of call to serve His Father. In a similar way, we do God’s will on earth as in heaven by not succumbing to temptations, and keeping ourselves *safe* from the evil of the world.

Jesus then returned to public life “in the power of the Spirit” (Luke 4:14). In three years of public ministry he showed us numerous ways of taking God’s love into the world. These required risk – protecting a prostitute, touching and healing diseased people, eating and drinking with sinners, and challenging religious authorities who accused him of ungodliness.

Doing God’s will on earth as in heaven also requires us to take God’s love to the world (*risk*).

Like Jesus, we all need the Holy Spirit’s guidance and strength to fulfill this prayer.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Would you consider yourself a “safe” Christian or a “risky” Christian? Why?
2. Is Bonavista Baptist a “safe” church or a “risky” church? Why?
3. How can we ensure that the Holy Spirit is enabling us to do God’s will?

MOVING FORWARD

Identify one way you could stand to better guard your purity or be *safer* in your faith. Identify one way you could be a bit *riskier* in sharing God’s love. Ask the Holy Spirit to accompany you and give you strength to do God’s will.