

Two Ransoms #5 *Willing to do His Will*

Jn 5:21 — “...the Son gives life to whom He *wishes*, to whom He *will*.” Jn 7:17 — “If any man is *willing* to do His will...” The word *wishes* in Jn 5:21 and the word *willing* in Jn 7:17 is the same word in the Greek #2309.

He is willing, but His will is not put into action until He sees whether we are willing, that is, whether our will is put into action. The first action of our will is baptism. If we are willing to do His will after the many other words are heard then we respond to His will to save us, His love for us (Rom 5:8-9), by being baptized into His death, making the good confession in Rom 10:9-10, and calling on His name (verses 11-13). A person does not have to bring in his house or farm proceeds, or any of his possessions before he is baptized. We hear faith from their mouth and a good confession after they have heard what they must do in order to be saved, if they have truly believed into Him. The word of the Sovereign must be spoken to them, and they must hear this word of what it means to believe (Acts 16:31-34).

Even in Paul’s case our Master was confident to send Ananias to him and order him to get up and be baptized and wash his sins away. If one is truly willing he will know (Jn 7:17), and if he knows, the Spirit knows also and is willing to put His will into action as much as the one who knows the truth is willing to terminate his life in the water.

Jn 18:37 — So when we all came in in Chattanooga some of us were of the truth and some were not, as Jn 10:14, 27 says. We all thought we were saved, had eternal life, but many were not willing to do His will as they found out for themselves later on as the Mt 13 parables teach us. We did not know that we were not Christians (but some were). But as we emerged from out of the dust, we began to discover more and more who we were. The gospel became clearer and clearer. We all came in from all walks of life —some Christians, some not. We accepted Christians as brothers, and they moved in, and later, as things got harder and harder on the narrow road, people began to complain and murmur and sneak off in the middle of the night to go back home. So obviously, they never were willing to do our Father’s will. So in turn, He was not willing to give them true life. It boiled down to this, that they never believed in the One whom we who stayed believed into.

Our Master found that He could not entrust Himself to the ones who would not entrust themselves to Him, for He knew all men. It was exciting in the beginning. The new thing was happening, and many came to us in fanfare as it was in Jn 2:23. But as verse 24 says, those who did not *believe* in Him, He didn’t believe in them either.

So as Jn 6:66 says, the same thing happened when they found out that we had another Spirit than they had. But if they had been willing to do our Father’s will He would have been willing to give them life. We who stayed and are still here did not know we were different than those who were not actually believers and who were not actually willing to do His will, who did not actually give up their lives. But as the threshing process continued, the wheat grains fell at the winnower’s feet. Jn 6:44 —

He knew that some of us really did not trust in Him, for He knew from the very beginning, even from the Light House and Vine House days, who it was that was going to betray Him. As Jn 6:44-45 says, no one can come to Yahshua unless it is granted them, unless the Father draws them. The Father draws only those to the Son who are actually needy and trusting and willing to do His will —**whether they know it or not and all that it means**. Nevertheless here we all are, the nucleus. What is left is the true seed, the kindling (Lk 12:49), those who knew that they were of the substance which could be drawn to Messiah, or the substance that the Father could grant to come to Yahshua. We who stand here today were enabled to come and stay, to be united to Him, even to become one spirit with Him (1 Cor 6:17; Mt 12:30). But so many were not joined to Him, never sealed with Him, and we see the fruit of it as we look back.

We did not know the whole comprehensive gospel back then. But still there is no excuse for anyone who did not adhere to Him, because whoever was willing to do His will, He was willing to give them life. The ones of us who were willing to do His will, He gave the right to become His true children. We did not know the other words so much, we just asked Jesus to save us, to come into our hearts, or to simply forgive us. And those of us

who truly believed and trusted and had a willing heart to do His will, He knew even before the foundation the world (Eph 1:4). So He makes no mistakes about who He chooses. He chooses whom He knows, those who need Him, who trust Him, who are willing to do His will. These are His offspring (Isa 53:10), the result of the suffering of His soul in death.

Jn 5:24 is the good news, and everyone in the beginning knew this verse, but many did not really believe in Him. They heard His word, but did not receive the sent one (Jn 13:20; Lk 10:16; Mt 10:40-41). All those who did not receive the sent one did not receive his reward either. So when it came to the proving of their faith, they could not do it (1 Jn 3:14,16,17,23,24). They had no inner conviction that they had passed out of death and into life.

Jn 5:21 and 5:25 go together.

Many in the beginning, or even now, have not been raised to life (Col 2:12; Rom 6:2-5).

Rom 10:17 says one must hear His voice (Jn 10:14,27; 18:37). So Jn 5:24 depended upon hearing through the body whom they were baptized into, forever united in that body, identified with Messiah who is the head of that body. Those who left are as 1 Jn 2:19. They never belonged to us, they never belonged to the head (Gal 3:27-29; 5:24). Rom 8:7-9 — They never really belonged, never really believed unto Yahshua (Jn 3:15,18). They never believed through those from whom they heard it — the body, the brothers and sisters who faithfully shared the good news with them. They never trusted, never entrusted their lives to the Body of Messiah so they could not be baptized into the body of Messiah (1 Cor 12:12-13) by the Spirit. 1 Cor 6:17 was never a reality. Rom 8:14-16 was not real to them.

Those of us who are still here have gone through a great ordeal (Ecc 2:1-18; Phil 1:29). So don't think it strange when you go through this great ordeal (1 Pet 4:12; Acts 14:22). We must all go through much hardship, testing, yes, a great ordeal, to enter, to be counted worthy of the kingdom to rule with Messiah (2 Ths 1:4-5). "... So in spite of your persecutions and crushing sorrows which you are enduring, this is a proof of God's righteous judgment. His aim being to let you show yourselves worthy of His kingdom for which you are suffering..." If we do believe we must go through much tribulation since suffering has been granted to us who believe. This is the only way we who believe can be glorified with Him (Rom 8:17; Mt 24:9-13; 13:18-23). But in the beginning with us, it was like Mt 13:46-50, even like Mt 13:24-29,31-33.

The threshing floor of the community life, however, made it clear and is making it clear who is wheat and who is not as we go first through the threshing process, which then is followed by the winnowing before the grain can be sifted and then finally bagged for storage.

So in Jn 5:21 and 7:17 we see the will of the Father towards us and the will of us towards the Father. Both work together for salvation of His people.

Willing (Jn 5:21; 7:17) indicates not only *willing* something, but also pressing into action.

#2309 denotes (elective inclination) love; to will; to be decided upon; seeing one's desire to its execution; to be inclined; to have a mind to; to endeavor to; to carry out His good pleasure, His will, as Isa 53:10 speaks of His offspring who *do* His will and not just have good teachings about it. This is the kind of willingness a person must have in order for Yahshua to entrust Himself to them.

So the distinguishing difference between the ones who came in at the beginning, especially in Chattanooga days, who endured and the ones who didn't endure, was simply the willingness to do the Father's will. Bill Tiller, James Howell, David Jones, all came in together. They all heard the same gospel. They all were even baptized. One endured — he was willing to do the Father's will. The two others are gone — they weren't willing to do the Father's will. Yahshua, knowing their heart, didn't entrust Himself to them.

Many were "already saved," but we baptized them anyway when they came to us in Chattanooga. But only the ones who were willing to do His will received the Holy Spirit, even though they thought they were already "saved and sanctified" by Christian doctrine. Our Father knew our hearts. He knew whom He could entrust Himself to and whom He could not, regardless of the content of the gospel back then, for even though the gospel was not as comprehensive at that time as it is now, it was according to our hearts and our wills, which our Master knew, whether He would entrust Himself to a person or not (Jn 2:24; 5:21; 7:17). And now the obedient life that a person lives in the body of Messiah (Jn 8:31; 14:21; 15:5-8) and the test of time (Mt 24:8-13; Rev 12:2) are the evidence that they were willing to do the will of God and that they heard the voice of His Son (Jn 10:14,

27-29; Eph 4:21).

So it is clear that there is no way one can work for eternal life. It is only by the will of God in Messiah Yahshua that we can have His forgiveness. He grants forgiveness of sins to only those who believe or commit and entrust their life to Him. Only those who are willing to do His will, who are willing to obey the gospel, will He give the needed illumination to know if they are hearing the voice of Messiah or an impostor (Jn 7:17; 10:4,5,14,26-29). His sacrifice for us freed us from Satan and eternal death. Our sacrifice for Him of our own life and possessions and family is our sacrifice or ransom for Him. This is the initial sacrifice, which secures our place in the Holy City. But it doesn't stop there, because this sacrifice is an ongoing, daily sacrifice, as Lk 9:23 puts it, also Rom 12:1-2, in order to secure our place in Messiah's kingdom. We must come to understand this.

2 Cor 5:14-15 — Giving up everything we have, even our own life in this world (Jn 12:25,26), is the only way possible to not live for yourself any longer but for Him who paid the price for our salvation for us in order for us to now participate in the will and purpose of God in the Body of Messiah, the community as Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35. No one can be a disciple (Mt 28:18-20) any other way or by any other gospel. There is no other gospel that calls one out of this abnormal society, this wicked and perverse, secular society (Acts 2:38-41). As Gal 1:6-8 says, "If anyone preaches a different gospel, let him be accursed!" — Let it be!