

## WE WILL ALL DO HIS WILL, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

"...because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath day, **THEY HAVE FULFILLED THEM** (Scriptures) **IN CONDEMNING HIM,**" Acts 13:27.

Although they read the writings of the Prophets every Sabbath, the Jews were unaware. And, in this state, they fulfilled prophecy of Scripture. They condemned Jesus, the Christ.

Yes, one way or another, God's **Will** will be done. However, think of all the many passages from the Old Testament that the Jews read. And, remember the many New Testament testimonies that were presented to the nation, before they crucified the Lord.

At the time of Jesus, John, the Baptist was a faithful servant of God's **will**; even though He questioned, "**Are you the Expected One,**" (Lk 7:19).

Jesus, as He always does for those of faith, satisfied His messenger. He sent back to John, the quote from Isaiah 35:5 & 61:1, referencing healing the "**blind, deaf and lame.**"

That was enough for John who trusted fully in the prophets; something the Jews failed to do, even though, they read them every Sabbath day.

One clear and undisputable reference is found in Luke 4:17, at one of the synagogue meetings. When the "**book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him,**" (Lk 4:17), Jesus read Chapter 61:1: "**The Spirit of the Lord was upon me...to preach the gospel...to proclaim release to the captives...recovery sight of the blind...free those who are downtrodden...to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.**"

There was a buzz in the synagogue, after this. The Jews weren't sure but, they spoke well of Him when Jesus closed the book and made the glorious claim that "**Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing**" (Lk 4:21). Then, a little later, the mood changed. "**...all in the synagogue were filled with rage**" (v28).

It's easy to see the mood change. All were fine until Jesus pointed out that God's call is restricted. He stated that Elijah was sent to only Zarephath, a widow. Further, although there was many lepers, Elisha cleansed only Naaman, the Syrian (vv 26, 27).

In the above passages, it is clear that God's call is to whom He sends needed help. But, there's more to this; for, Jesus was sent! And, He was sent to all

who were (are) in much need of help, eternally. Where was Jesus sent? "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the household of Israel," Matthew 15:24.

So, if the Jews are in need, and Jesus was sent to them, what's the difference? Looking again at Jesus' quote concerning Zarephath, we may see that one reason lies in the fact that she was receptive to God's servant. The Jews, on the other hand, kept on claiming the promise of Abraham while, at the same time, rejecting the Heir, Himself!

In other words, the Jews were unable to see their situation; the fact that they were spiritually sick. If they had leprosy, then they may have turned to the prophet, Jesus.

Yet, even though they were under control of the Romans at the time, their reliance was proudly announced: "We are Abraham's seed" (Jn 8:33). They refused to accept God's needed help. But, God's will will provide, anyway.

Unless, a man had some sickness, it seems, the Jews of Jesus day thought they were okay, in every spiritual way. They accepted the blessings of healing and such, but they would not gather under His control (Mt 23:37).

The Jews were "unwilling" to come to the One sent by God; in this case, God, Himself. But, hasn't that always been the problem? Men will come to idols, religious trinkets and observe days; even the Law, but coming to God, that's something else.

In the synagogue meeting, Jesus may be bringing home the point that familiarity diminishes acceptance. "...no prophet is welcome in his home town" (v24). But, when another - a stranger - enters, people's ears perk up; whether, Jew or Gentile.

Matthew 24 records startling truths that were rejected in His day and in our day; that is, deception! It comes from "Many...and mislead many," (V 5). In verse 11, Jesus says, "...many false prophets will arise and will mislead many." Finally, verse 24. "...false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, even the elect."

And so, this GoodNews Letter is about people fulfilling God's will. At times, they don't even know it. However, God is in charge, always. His Will will be done, always! Are you aware of God's Will? And, doing it?

God's will was done in the day of Jesus; but, rather than fulfilling God's will in Jesus, the children of Abraham fulfilled God's will in crucifying the heir to Abraham's promise. It had to be, but woe to the one it comes (See Mt 26:24).

How did the Jews miss the Savior? Simply, they failed to come to Jesus, the Christ. They liked it when He did abundant miracles; giving sight to the blind and hearing to those who were deaf. They loved it when He healed the sick and raised

the dead. But, in the final analysis, He was from Nazareth and no prophet ever came out of that place.

I'm a curious guy, too. I want to know what God has in store for this world. And, since I am a selfish and egotistical homo sapiens, I want to know what's in store; for my own good (and, for the glory of God!).

Thus, I turn to Jesus. All is revealed in the Person of Jesus, the Christ. But, these "men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham" (Acts 13:26), missed "the word of this salvation" (V 27) that was sent to them.

It's AMAZING! These "children of the stock of Abraham" are like Missionary Baptist kids. They were raised up in the truth. How could they miss their Savior? How can they not follow Him?

It was in God's mercy that Jesus offered Himself. It was done generously and graciously; not, for the Jews, alone, but for the whole world.

And, concerning the Jewish nation, Jesus made this declaration; which may be a commentary on the entire world - even America!

"For the heart of this people has become dull,  
And with their ears they scarcely hear,  
And, they have closed their eyes  
Lest they should see with their eyes,  
And hear with their ears,  
And understand with their heart and return  
And I should heal them," Matthew 13:15.