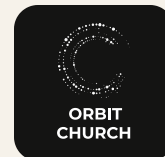


What Is God's Will?

2025-01-20 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 4:31-34

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

The disciples brought Jesus lunch, and he told them: I have food you know nothing about. My food is to do the will of the one who sent me. So what is God's will? Pastor Matt used the movie *Drumline*, where a gifted drummer stalls because he never learned to read music. Talent gets you somewhere. Learning the system takes you further. God wants to be known two ways at once, with the heart and with the head. And love matures the way it does with a newborn: pure feeling at first, then the changing table.

To get started

- Does your faith run more on feeling or on understanding? How can you tell?

Looking back at the message

The phrase he kept repeating was that it is both. Hold both halves through the whole discussion.

- 1 Pastor Matt used *Drumline*, where a naturally gifted drummer stalls because he never learned to read music. Where are you coasting on gifting alone?
- 2 Pastor Matt described his old transactional faith: God, help me make this shot and I will do your will. What did your version of that look like?
- 3 Pastor Matt said some people know every Bible story and answer without actually knowing God. Where have you seen that? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 4:31-34. Jesus answers a question about lunch with a statement about his will.

- 4 Read John 4:31-34. The disciples are talking about lunch. What does Jesus say his food is?
- 5 The disciples were closest to Jesus and still kept misunderstanding him. Why do you think that happened?
- 6 Read Mark 12:28-31. What are the two commands, and how do they fit together?
- 7 Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Heart, soul, and strength are all named. Which one do you use least? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The newborn illustration is the memorable one. Use it to talk about love that costs something.

- 8 Pastor Matt described loving his newborn son instantly at birth, then learning self-sacrificial love at the changing table. Where has your love had to grow from feeling into sacrifice?
- 9 If a coworker asked you a hard question about your faith, how would it go? And how would you want it to go?
- 10 What is one thing you could read or study this year to know God better with your head?
- 11 Who do you love with feelings but not yet with sacrifice?

The group together

Groups often skew one direction, all warmth or all study. Ask which one this one is.

- 12 Does this group lean toward feelings or toward study? What is missing?
- 13 How could this group serve someone outside itself this month?
- 14 What question about faith have you been afraid to ask out loud?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Which half needs to grow in you this year, the heart or the head, and what is your first step?

You might pray about

- For a faith that survives a season of chaos
- For love that costs something rather than only feels something
- For the questions people in this group are carrying quietly