

Title: Seeking God's Will: The Heart of True Prayer

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the importance of genuinely seeking God's will rather than simply telling God what we want Him to do. Through the account of King Jehoshaphat and King Ahab in 2 Chronicles 18, the message emphasizes that God searches throughout the earth for hearts fully committed to Him. The sermon challenges listeners to examine their prayer lives, asking whether they approach God with humility and openness to His will, or with predetermined agendas. Using Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane as the ultimate example, the pastor illustrates the power of praying "not my will, but yours be done." The message warns against false prophets who tell people what they want to hear rather than speaking God's truth, and encourages believers to seek discernment and genuine connection with God in their spiritual lives.

Key Points:

- God's eyes range throughout the earth looking for hearts fully committed to Him (2 Chronicles 16:9)
- Satan also roams the earth, but looking for those vulnerable to attack, similar to his interaction with Job
- Many prayers focus on telling God what we want rather than asking what He wants
- We often pray with greater intensity when we're in trouble, but should maintain consistent communion with God
- Jehoshaphat demonstrated wisdom by insisting on seeking God's counsel before going to battle
- True prophets speak only what God says, not what people want to hear
- King Ahab surrounded himself with 400 prophets who told him what he wanted to hear, rejecting the one true prophet Micaiah
- God sometimes allows lying spirits to accomplish His purposes when people persistently reject His truth
- Jesus exemplified perfect prayer in Gethsemane by submitting His will to the Father's will
- We must let God be God and not romanticize our faith or expect

everything to work out as a fairy tale

- Discernment is necessary to distinguish between true and false prophetic voices
- The goal of prayer should be knowing and doing God's will, not manipulating God to do ours

Scripture Reference:

- 2 Chronicles 16:9 (The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth)
- 2 Chronicles 17 (Jehoshaphat's reign and faithfulness)
- 2 Chronicles 18 (Jehoshaphat and Ahab's alliance, Micaiah's prophecy)
- 1 Kings 18 (Elijah on Mount Carmel, context for Ahab's unfaithfulness)
- 1 Kings 22 (Parallel account of the Ramoth Gilead battle)

Stories:

- The account of King Jehoshaphat allying with King Ahab through marriage and their plan to attack Ramoth Gilead
- Elijah's confrontation with Ahab on Mount Carmel regarding the prophets of Baal and Asherah
- The three-year drought in Israel during Ahab's reign
- Micaiah's vision of God's throne room where a spirit volunteers to be a lying spirit in the mouths of Ahab's prophets
- Micaiah's prophecy of Israel scattered like sheep without a shepherd
- Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane praying "not my will, but yours be done"
- The pastor's childhood memory of trying to keep his eyes closed during long prayers
- The story of the little old lady who said she wanted a preacher "tall enough that when he's on his knees, he reaches heaven"
- Reference to martyrs crying out from under the altar in Revelation asking "How long, O Lord?"