

Wisdom Not Worry

Monday, June 15

Matthew 6:11

“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

If you've been paying attention to the news you've likely heard about a group of protesters in Seattle attempting to bring about what they believe will be a bit of heaven to earth. They are calling their six-block haven of prime Seattle real estate CHAZ, *Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone*. The CHAZ occupiers promise free food, free movies, free time and a life free from the presence of police! “We aren't moving until we get what we want,” they clamor arrogantly. Evidently, they intend to hold their barricaded ground until their will is heard and their demands are met. Unbelievable! Don't get me started, folks!

When I listen closely to my prayers, I cannot help but wonder if I've set up an autonomous zone in my own heart. I fear my attitude is more similar to the CHAZ occupiers than I care to admit – “Lord, I know what's best for me, my family and your church. Just answer my list of demands so we can get on with it and we'll all be the better for it.” At least there is some comfort in realizing I'm not alone.

Jesus recognized this tendency toward autonomy in his disciples when he offered this corrective. “When you pray, this is how you should pray: Father...Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Jesus is teaching us a simple but profound truth - Life goes best when we put God first. I'm learning to pray as Jesus taught, yielding my demands to His desires, my will to His. I'm learning to pray as Jesus prayed, “Father, not my will but Thine be done.” To pray, “Your will be done” is to pray, “Lord, you know what is best and your will is better by far. Occupy me...all of me!”

Grateful,
Pastor Ben