

**JESUS AND THE WILL OF GOD  
WEEK EIGHT**

**JESUS WASN'T PLAN B IN GOD'S PLAN...the Early Church didn't debate the issue of "who God is" by assuming that they already knew an answer, then fit Jesus into the equation. They started with Jesus and worked up to God. He reveals God to us, not vice versa. He wasn't PLAN B in God's will; it revolved around him from the start. He was the embodiment of God's will: he spoke it, lived it, fulfilled it. In him, God has spoken as clearly as God will ever speak. Don't just say, "Jesus is God" Say all of it: that, as God, he chose to be one of us. It makes Christianity unique.**

**THE IMAGE OF THE GOD...no words are adequate to describe Jesus. Even the titles the bible uses like SON OF MAN, THE CHRIST, even THE SON OF GOD do not exhaust the meaning of his life. We must receive him as he revealed himself or not all. In him GOD'S MIND becomes transparent. There was nothing of SELF TO BE SEEN IN JESUS, only God's love for the world. If we want to know God's will, we start with Jesus. In him, God's will isn't revealed as an iron steamroller that we should fear.**

**He was merciful, not vindictive. He was humble, not a show Off. He didn't thump his enemies, call down fire on those who treated him badly. He joined hands with those who had lost their way, stuck by them, and he loved/died for them.**

**THE PERCULIAR KING...his life set God's plan in motion, like the tolling of a bell. God's kingdom was near but not totally present. He claimed to have the right to do what only God could do. He spoke as one having authority. He claimed that the Torah, though it pointed the right way, couldn't complete the job. He challenged Israel to be what God had destined them to be "a light to world" but they'd lost that mission, turned inward. Through Jesus, God was sending a message:**

**God was calling for a new way to be his people which made Temple irrelevant. Jesus started a messianic movement but not like the ones before him: no tax revolt, military action.**

**Jesus: The Life of Surrender...God's will was the driving force of Jesus' life, influenced all that he said/did. Among his last words were, IT IS FINISHED! That was "ONE BIG IT" The whole bible marches toward that announcement: IT IS FINISHED, the mission God sent him to do fulfilled. Yet it is not "totally finished", not until God's purposes for**

**our destiny/human history are revealed.**