



Scripture nugget –Discerning and living God’s will

Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord. And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18).

God’s will is encapsulated in His Commandments, precepts and divine teachings. One of the important reasons Jesus came in the flesh, besides the primary mission of salvation of the world, is to show us how to live. Jesus is filled with great zeal to accomplish His holy but difficult mission. He encountered obstacles and temptations all around, attempting to derail Him from His mission. When Jesus forewarned His disciples that He would be killed at the hands of sinners and raised again on the third day, Peter rebuked Him, saying: This shall never happen to You! (cf. Matthew 16:21-22). It was a natural human reaction out of care and love of Jesus. However, we see that Jesus lost no time in correcting this obstacle to God’s will. *He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an obstacle to Me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” (Matthew 16:23).* Peter would have responded very differently if he really understood God’s will for Jesus. Oftentimes, we, lacking wisdom and discernment, fall into the same trap as Peter. We are usually driven by our feelings, our sentimentality, our opinion but not always by our faith. When we conveniently place human priorities on top of allegiance to God’s commandments, we are unconscious obstacles like St Peter to the fulfillment of God’s will in us and around us, despite our seemingly good intentions. We can discern God’s will more easily if we study and meditate, with the objective of filial obedience, God’s Word, His Commandments, and Church teachings. A properly formed and informed conscience is disposed to fulfill God’s will perfectly. God gives us the graces to do this. Thus, besides prayers and good works, sound knowledge of the teachings of our faith is also important to live a full Christian life.

Only when we let go of our own agenda, can we be strong enough to do God’s will. *Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it (Matthew 16:24-25).* We can only be able to respond to God’s calling if we make ourselves available to do God’s will. The parable of the Great Banquet (cf. Luke 14:16-24) serves as a great lesson on having the right life priorities. Those invited missed the important calling because they were too busy with their earthly affairs. One has to examine the field he just bought. Another has to evaluate the oxen he just purchased. Another has to spend time with his new wife. Only when we schedule our earthly matters around and under our filial responsibilities to God in our daily lives, we will miss the opportunity to fulfill God’s will, and thus, fail to live our lives on earth to the fullest.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, God’s will is the shortest, safest, most wholesome way to my eternal inheritance in heaven. Give me a great love for God’s will so that I can say together with You: My food is to do God’s will and His work (cf. John 4:34). Impart to me wisdom and discernment so that I can perceive God’s Hand working in my life. With Your Commandments lighting up my path, I can walk on the true path even amidst all the confusion and error all around. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me and help me live a full Christian life. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.