

Peace is... surrendering to God

Wisdom 9:13 “...who can conceive what the Lord intends?”

Philemon 14 “...but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary.”

Luke 14:27 Jesus [said], “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

Reflection

We sometimes forget how small we are in relation to God. We plan for tomorrow, for next week, for a special event, for our vacation, for our retirement... Yet it is often only in retrospect that we have even the slightest idea about how God is working in our lives... It is easy to think that we are autonomous, that we can do everything on our own. God allows us to choose our way, but He is always there to guide us and help us. His Hand is in everything. He is ready to catch us when we fall. Similar to the quote from St. Paul in the 2nd reading, God does not force us, but wants us to choose His way, because in His great wisdom, He knows which way is best for us. He invites us to follow Him.

In the gospel today, Jesus talks about the planning required to construct a tower. It would be silly to start building without first having figured out if we have all that is necessary to complete the construction. When we set out to do something in our lives, whether it is to start an exercise program or a new diet, engage in a new sport or hobby, buy a car or house, move or change jobs, there are things that we do to ensure that we will be successful. If we do not prepare or “do our homework,” we may fall flat on our face.

How do we plan for building our spiritual life? Are we deliberate in securing the foundation we need, so that when the storms come, our spiritual life does not crumble and fall apart? Do we take the time each day to instill a habit for ourselves to be healthy in our spirit? Do we place ourselves in God's presence, remember our place in His kingdom, and allow Him to guide us so that we make the best choices for our own health and ultimate happiness?

We are creatures of habit. We must be deliberate in the way we go about our spiritual health, just as we do about our physical and mental health. It takes effort to renew or refresh our relationship with God each day, just as it does to stick with an exercise regimen. But we have to keep trying, little by little, to give our lives to God, to surrender our wants and desires in order to do His will for us, which is really for our best good. When we allow Him to guide us in everything, when we entrust our lives to Him, He will take care of the outcome. When we choose God's way ahead of our own, when we serve another instead of ourselves, it is then that we are taking up our cross. It is then that we are surrendering to God. It is the way to true peace. It requires trust.

There are no coincidences. God remains anonymous.

Action:

- *Reflect on your plans and on what the Lord may intend for you.*
- *Take steps to build or strengthen your spiritual foundation. In [Rediscovering Catholicism](#) (Beacon Publishing, Ohio, 2002), Matthew Kelly gives us 7 “pillars” of Catholic Spirituality: reconciliation; contemplation; the Mass; the Bible; fasting; spiritual reading; and the rosary. Let us pick a place to start.*
- *Contribute in some way to the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Friends of the Poor Walk on September 25th. If you cannot join them at Lemon Lake Co. Park that day, perhaps you can make a donation.*