

Institute Voluntas Dei - January 2017 Lesson

submitted by Carol and Joel Livingston

Micah 6:8 *What is good has been explained to you, man - this is what Yahweh asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord,

I love You! Show me Your will for me today. I want to serve You and live for You! As I read Your Word, teach me and show me truth today. I want to obey You and I want people around me to know that there is something different about me. I want my actions to point them to You, Lord. You deserve all of the glory! You deserve all of the praise! I trust in You and I will do my absolute best to obey You today! Thank You for Your mercy and grace, Father! Amen

by Derek Hill

Hebrews 13: 20a, 21 *Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him*

Will of God: Christ in Me (Meditation 7)

Let us become aware that God is in each of us, that His presence is clear enough for others to discover Him in my qualities. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God dwells in me now, reproducing Christ in me, so that following his example I can transmit the will of the Father, and his own love in whatever milieu I am present.

Love is expressed in us through our qualities that are detectable, visible, concrete, simple and engaging.

Fr. L.M. Parent, *In Intimacy with Jesus*

Is my faith visible to others?

Do others detect the presence of Christ in me?

1 Peter 2:15 *For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.*

Will of God: Ardent (Fervent) Faith (Meditation 8)

God ... wants our faith to ardent and dynamic so that I can consider myself an instrument of Christ,

To have faith and conserve (preserve) it is one thing, but to live it, to be a conscious instrument of Christ is another. To know many truths of the faith is a richness but to live the word of God and to believe in it enough to feel the need for conversion is the treasure that I must seek.

Faith is believing, it is living like the one that is the objective of that faith.

A faith that is ardent, courageous, full of excitement and filled with life, impels me to believe that I am but an earthen vessel containing Christ; I am but a continuation of his humanity.

Fr. L.M. Parent, *In Intimacy with Jesus*

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Do I have the ambition to be fervent and holy - or do I leave this to others?
Is my faith sufficiently courageous?
Can I give examples when I manifested a courageous faith?

Proverbs 3: 5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Will of God: Submission (Meditation 9)

If we accept to be imitators of Christ who says to us, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work", we will not find ourselves without trials. We must visualize all that the word "obedience" implicates (implies) in our journey. The word "obedience" led Jesus to the cross, to his abasement (humbling) in the Eucharist. His obedience was done voluntarily, without regretting the total gift of himself to the Father.

God makes many friends but his intimate friends are few; he asks much of them. He wants full confidence from them.

Obedience is better than sacrifice.

Mary, nourish my heart with your "fiat".

What connections do I make between the will of God and obedience?
Can there be obedience without availability and submission?

Fr. L.M. Parent, *In Intimacy with Jesus*

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, I thank You for dying for me on the cruel cross and I praise You Lord for Your glorious resurrection from the dead and all that it means to me – a sinner who has been saved by your obedience to the Father.

Help me I pray to trust You no matter what I am called upon to do. Give me the will to step out in faithful obedience on those occasions when I am called to say or do something that is outside of my comfort zone and to follow in the path of those like Queen Esther, who was called for such a time as this.

Help me to step out in faith and not to fear that which I am called upon to undertake, knowing that we have not been given the spirit of fear but of power and love and of a sound mind. Keep my heart open to Your promptings help to grow in my faith and obedience to Your praise and glory in Jesus name I pray,

Amen

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