



Week One: *Decisioning Prayer*

1. Prayer is a discipline of practicing the way of Jesus: to be with Jesus
It is a means of relationship with God, who is personal and relational

2. Each person is unique and has to discover what works for them
It's like shopping for and buying shoes for a variety of needs and occasions

3. Life is full of decisions, and we should invite God into the process
Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what He intends? For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans. Wisdom 9
What king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? Luke 14

4. First, formulate a clear statement of the problem. Then gather data
Write down all alternatives. Consider the effects of each on our relationship with God, our family, and other people. Count the cost. Luke 14

5. Bring the data to prayer
Which gives the most sense of God's peace? Which option am I attached to? How willing am I to let it go? 'Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.' Luke 14

6. Make a decision and live with it for a while
Go with the option that gives the most peace while at prayer. It may not be the option we prefer. It may involve suffering and sacrifice. But Jesus is with us. 'Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.' Luke 14

7. Act on the decision, and seek confirmation
This may involve giving up something we're attached to. Ask the Holy Spirit for courage. Does it bring life to ourselves and to others? Does it bear good fruit? Trust God to bring good even out of mistakes, and learn from them.

Questions for Discussion

1. What spoke to you most from this homily?
2. When faced with a difficult decision, what decision-making process do you go through? Do you pray for guidance, or seek the counsel of others?
3. Can you think of a wrong decision which God turned to his and your own advantage? Describe what happened.
4. Recall a difficult decision you have had to make. Explain why it was difficult and how you finally reached that decision.
5. What was your experience with the suggested prayer exercise below?

Prayer Exercise

Write down decisions facing you at this time in your life.

Begin to ask the HS to guide you in making them.

If the decision needed is a pressing one, use the practical steps offered today to invite God into the decision.

See how these steps assist you.

Prayer of St. Ignatius

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding, and my will,
all that I have and possess.

Everything I have is yours, for you have given it all to me;
to you I return it.

Take, Lord, and do what you like with me,
only give me your grace and your love,
for that is enough for me.

Amen.