

Small Groups

Discussion Questions for August 16, 2015 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom is one of those qualities difficult to define, but when you see it, you know what it is. We all know people who are smart and we know some who are a few sandwiches shy of a picnic. But how many of us can point to someone and say – “That’s a wise guy/gal?” Perhaps you have said that, but with a slightly different inflection than we’re considering today. If you know someone who is truly wise, they usually have a personality that attracts others. They seem to be generally content and satisfied in all they have and do. They walk around with a very confident, but not arrogant, manner. They seem to be “all together”. I suppose that’s what St. Paul is getting at when he tells us to be careful how we live and to try to understand the will of God. Perhaps it’s that simple: learn to discern the will of God in our lives. Be open to God’s promptings. It might not be as difficult or spooky as we think.

Discussion Questions

1. The Daily Specials this weekend were Thanksgiving, Wisdom and Joy. Take each one and tell about something that happened this week that demonstrated these.
2. St Paul wants us to try to understand God’s will for us. Do you have any methods or prayers that help you to determine His will in your life? Can you share any for the Group?
3. Jesus tells us that unless we eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, we cannot have life eternal. There is a lot of deep theological truth in this statement, but for our everyday lives, what does this mean? Aside from the Eucharist, can you think of other ways that we can “eat his flesh and drink his blood”?
4. If you have ever felt God calling you to do something that seemed extreme or strange for him or others, did you act on it? Maybe it was something like a mission trip or just a visit to a neighbor, did you feel his prompting and did you respond? Discuss ways God might do this.

Closing Prayer

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, watch over us and guide us in your truth and love. Make us open to your Word and lead us into all the truth that you know is best for our souls. Help us to recognize, internalize and then share that Wisdom that far surpasses any knowledge of humans. We are not always aware of your movement in our lives, but we ask you in all sincerity to enable us to feel and know what it is you want for us so that we may better praise and worship you as you deserve. We know that you lack nothing and that your only reason for creating us was to give us the same peace, love and joy that is totally complete in you. For that we are always thanking you. Let us return that gift to you through those around us. Let us share your love with others so that they see us less and see you more. We love you, thank you and glorify you above all else in our lives. Amen.

“Brothers and sisters: Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Eph 5:21 - 32)