

### Third Tuesday of Advent, December 14 Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Making decisions has always been difficult for me. I struggle with picking food from restaurant menus, clothes to wear, routes to drive, books to read, gifts to buy...you get the idea. My brothers call it "paralysis by analysis." I get so caught up in trying to envision every possible outcome and associated consequences, that I forget the significance of the decision and its impact on my life (typically minimal!).

When I reflect and try to untangle the threads leading to my indecisiveness, I pull one thread that explains I don't want to be wasteful of time, energy, or money. When that thread gets knotted, I pull another thread that tells me I just want to get it right the first time and not make mistakes. Still another thread explains that when I am in control of my life, I make the best decisions that lead to ultimate happiness and contentment. After all, who knows me better than I know myself?

As I look back and consider some of the critical decisions I made about my career, my family, and my spiritual health, I recognize that most decisions were based solely on my understanding of my potential and my purpose. If I asked the advice of trusted friends and family, I was still only including humans who have the same limitations of understanding as I do.

Now I see how incredibly foolish and shortsighted I was! The only one who knows all, sees all, understands all is GOD! Not only is He available 24/7, He always wants to make sure you stay on the path that will fulfill your purpose in life (which is the only way to true happiness)! God will keep your mind and heart at peace! He will protect you from your enemies! He will address those who have hurt you in the most appropriate and just way (so you do not need to waste time or energy thinking about it)! In addition, He will always be happy to listen to you!

Several years ago, after facing several life stressors (financial, marital, professional, and parental), I hit the reset button on my tangled decision making processes. Instead of feeling the pressure and anxiety of having to track *everything*, I surrendered control of my life to God. I started requesting His input before making a decision, and TRUSTING His plan for my life. Although I don't always understand all the details or see the finish line, I know that God's plan and outcome are far better than I could have ever imagined!

Choosing to turn over control to God is not a onetime occurrence, and it does not last forever. Instead, every decision is a conscious effort. God always has the time, patience, trust and love to help when you want to include Him in the daily activities and decisions of your life. The question is, do you have the time, patience, trust, and love to include God?

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