

Fifth Thursday of Lent – 3/13

"Jesus answered, 'If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, 'He is our God,' though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word.'" (John 8:54-55)

The popular moniker "WWJD" initials for "what would Jesus do" suggests that before we make an important decision we reflect on how Jesus would handle the same situation. In many ways that is good advice. But how do we know what Jesus would do? Is it enough to study the scriptures to discover the heart of Jesus?

"WWJD" seeks more from us than scripture study. To know what Jesus would do we must put on the mind of Jesus and we cannot do this simply by listening to His word. To know Jesus we must be in a relationship with Him. We must spend time conversing with Him so that we can get to know His ideas concerning generosity. We must be willing to feel deeply in order to touch the wellspring of compassion that is so much a part of Jesus. We must try on the courage of Jesus once in awhile in order to know that every day that Jesus went out amongst the people was a day when He had to be strong. And we must learn the difference between flashy miracles and fundamental healing of hearts.

If all of this does not seem possible, then look once more at Jesus. He spent a lot of time getting to know His Father over the years. How does Jesus know His Father except that He has spent time with Him? Jesus grew in wisdom and understanding. He didn't come into the world with complete knowledge of His mission but He was open all along the way to the revelations of His Father in whatever form they came. What Jesus would do is what the Father would do.

"WWJD" is a wonderful question to ask ourselves but it should be acted on with great care. We must be clear that our motives are the motives of Jesus. On some occasions the answers will come easily but at other times we will need to pray mightily for insight and even then we may not be absolutely sure of the right decisions. Yet one thing is clear. The more that we know the heart of Jesus the closer our decisions will be to decisions He would make.

Reflection Questions

- 1. Am I brave enough to truly learn the heart of Jesus?*
- 2. How is that knowledge informing my decisions?*

Prayer: Jesus, I want to do what You would do but sometimes I get confused. Help me to seek to know You more deeply so my actions will be in concert with Your desires. Amen.