

DISCERNMENT: DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU

When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it.

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO DISCERNMENT

Principles of discernment:

- God has intentions/desires
- He speaks (He actually communicates those intentions/desires)
- We have the ability to hear Him speak
- Therefore, we have the ability to respond to His desires

What discernment is *NOT*: beginning with prayer and then jumping to mere brainstorming, creativity, reasoning about positives and negatives etc.

A few important points from the Wedding of Cana:

- He doesn't just have intentions/desires for the big picture, but He cares about and gives guidance in the details
 - Therefore, discernment isn't so much something we do for a few minutes before we begin acting on it, but is an ongoing *posture of heart*.
 - He speaks to us just as He spoke to those at the feast
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- **Mary's role is very significant:**
 - Mary fosters a conversation between Christ and us.

In the wedding of Cana, she presents the issue to Jesus and then orients the others to His voice. It isn't *her voice* that stands out - she points us to *His*.

PART II: DISCERNING WITH YOUR LIAISONS

A "discernment time" can put us in tune with His voice as to regards a specific scenario and help us relate all "peripheral noise" to Him.

God speaks to us through our "interior senses" through:

- direct words,
- Scripture,
- images,
- "senses" (feelings)

Keep in mind God doesn't speak the same to everyone...

Trust and share what you received, because discussion is often where a fuller picture comes together. Therefore, in discussion:

- We don't have to feel the pressure of having the full picture as individuals in order to share
- We shouldn't be so attached to our contribution that discussion becomes a way merely to confirm it. We are *stewards* of God's voice, not the owners.

As we share or discern individually, some signs that we are hearing God's voice are: consistency, confirmation, and peace & clarity.

Process:

1. Clarify the Question
2. Pray & Listen
3. Share & Discuss
4. *Potentially go back into prayer for more clarity*
5. Move into Action

Praying the Discernment Rosary:

- Creed, Our Father, three Hail Mary's
- Announce the Mystery
- Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer
- At the end of the decade: Gently offer the reminder, repeat the question we are bringing to the Lord
- As prayer concludes, ask the group to share anything they may have received in prayer
- Write down that which shared and listen for common themes

