

## Day Eleven Meditation: Wisdom, Be Attentive

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God,  
who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Js 1:5

As you consider your life, given the difficulties of what you are facing in your marriage, I think, you can easily say that something is lacking - The two of you do not connect because there is no time for quality time; you try to share your victories and it as if they are dismissed or not even heard; intimacy leaves you lonely; you give at cost to yourself and there is no recognition of the gift, even with the simplest "thank you;" there is a fight, you are hurt, and all they can do is blame you, and that leads to you being constantly judged as the problem; and the list continues. If we had this ..... (whatever it might be), then all would be well, or at least better. Maybe you should do this, or would this be better? You read a book from an expert, you do as they say, and nothing changes, or maybe it gets worse. The state of something lacking is constantly before you.

I am sure there is more than this that you are facing, yet the above scripture is correct in its assessment, plainly put, that you need wisdom. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit to see things rightly and to know what to do, how to do it, with whom to do it, and when to do it. The Holy Spirit is wisdom; He knows your spouse better than you know yourself, and yes, the Spirit knows you better than you know yourself. Because of this intimate knowledge of both of you, the Spirit can lead you to do things that your natural mind might not even imagine.

The Spirit is waiting and ready to help you navigate all you are facing. Rarely do souls turn to him and say, "*Show me the way.*" We have not been trained from youth to be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Much of our spiritual life is focused on being in relationship with a God that does not share in our lives. Your Father wants to share in your life and help you in the smallest of ways. When you turn to Him and ask for His help, it brings Him great joy and glory. Blessed be God that even though we include Him in little, we stumble through life, finding ourselves in the middle of a blessing, not sure how it came to be. It was pure grace, a true gift from a Father who sees your need and provides.

Your broken marriage is the opportunity to fine-tune your heart to build a relationship with God where you invite, allow, and trust Him, your Father, to guide you to see things as He sees them in all the situations you are facing. He is a good Father who wants you to do His will, and in the doing of His will is the peace for which you were made, the peace for which you seek. He is not hiding things from you as if this is a cruel game with the consequence of you losing not an object or a dream, but losing the person that you once knew with surety was the one to whom you were to give all you are, your spouse. They are that person, the one you to whom you gave

your all at the Altar. You must guard your heart to ensure its focus on you, who needs to continue to give yourself for the sake of your beloved.

We hear better when our soul is at peace. This is why we spent two days prior seeking peace. Your marriage is clamouring for help with lack appearing in all directions. You see a place of seeming peace, a place devoid of your spouse. Your reason beckons that this is the place you must go. It seems it would give you peace to go in this way, and perhaps joy would return. It could be another relationship. It might be avoidance to the point of isolation, where you go to figure it out all by yourself, or it might be avoidance that chooses other things to do rather than working on your marriage. You could easily step into solutions that will numb the pain by the use of drugs or alcohol. Impurity, you reason, might offer fleeting peace. You just know that your relationship is not working and you need out, for it is in getting out that you will find peace and joy, so you plan or fantasize.

Wisdom is your true need. All the solutions you are proposing to yourself are either temporary or their consequences do not fully consider the impact on your spouse, your children, your extended family, or possibly your job. Panic might capture you with a knee-jerk reaction. Wisdom offers not a reaction, but a response. This is not to say that what you are thinking or planning is not of the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. It is to say that the wise person knows they need wisdom, and what is bouncing around in them might be the wise things to do or not.

Sometimes, wisdom is the obvious response, and friends are stupefied that we have not chosen its way. We are so caught up in anxiety or the need to punish that we react to the detriment of ourselves and our spouse. Children throughout our society are suffering from entering life with a limp because a parent could not see beyond themselves, even saying that what they were choosing was for the sake of the children, when it was solely their overreaction. This parent, this spouse, put aside wisdom, choosing comfort or other reasoned reactions that were not wise.

At the same time, wisdom is not always expedient, nor does it always make sense. Wisdom is seeing things as God sees, and He sees for your marriage beyond what you can see, and He will ask of you things for which you must greatly trust. God's priority is for you to become who you are, primarily, in the midst of your marriage, not separate or opposed to it.

Wisdom will show you what to do, how to do it, with whom to do it, and when to do it. This can seem so complicated. You just want relief and not more confusion that needs to be resolved. This is not a list you need to rightly solve. Your response is one thing, and it is not what to do, how to do it, with whom to do it, and when to do it. Your response is to see your lack and ask. There is only one thing for you to add to your truly complicated list of needs, and it is to ask for wisdom. When you ask, believe that you have a Father in heaven who loves you and that He will give you the Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you. Impressions will come to your quiet heart whether you are awake or asleep, others of wise counsel will speak it, simple life situations can make it crystal clear, or you will discover it in the scriptures or the Tradition of the Church; these are the ways the Spirit speaks.

A principle of living a wise life is to not make major life decisions while conflict is staring you down. Another principle is that if you are not sure, do not make a move. Both of these can be great ploys of the enemy to bring about your destruction and your spouse's, spilling out into the lives of your children. The trick of the one who was a liar since the beginning is to twist the "Now of God" into being "now", which is the urgency in the face of time to do something. The Now of God is that He is here and now, and that now is one of peace and joy, while the now of the enemy is the lie that you need to get out of this apin, or even marriage, here and now. Choose wisely as to which of these two nows will be the life you live. The first will bring you blessings into eternity, while the second brings you that which is fleeting, with its negative consequences lasting beyond what you have possibly considered. The Now of God will bring you life, while the now of urgency will grant you death of stunning proportion or of little bleeding cuts. Wisdom is what is needed.

Father,

I hear what your Word has to say -

I need wisdom.

Father,

may I have wisdom so I might look rightly and clearly at my spouse and our marriage, seeing what you see as you see them or it.

Help me to stop, not being moved by anxiety or the need to punish.

Wisdom will help me to take captive my thoughts, running them through the sieve of your will.

I want wisdom!

Forgive me for the times I charged into our problems in our marriage with my "needs" being a reaction of what was most important to me, rather than choosing the wise response, which always has to do with us, my spouse, and me.

In Jesus name.