



**Five Important Spiritual Thoughts from the Liturgy of the Word
...and follow up for the Secular Franciscan
January 19 – January 25**

1 – “I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (Heb 8:10)
...the Solemn Promise of our God. Are we the type of person who keeps a promise to God?

2 – “ That there be no divisions among you.” (1 Cor 1:10)
...Do I deliberately cause problems for others for no good reason?

3 -- “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Mt 4:17)
...Have I taken the time to confess my sinfulness to the Lord?

4 – “Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” (Mk 3:35)

WILL OF GOD

One way of looking at what Jesus did as he redeemed us is to consider Jesus following the will of God perfectly in his life. He was following his chosen way of living which was nothing less than the good of humankind, as best as he could. Jesus says in the Gospel: *Here are my mother and brothers* (pointing to those in the circle)—that is all of us and all of humankind. That was what he was called to do—touch every human being with his redeeming power.

That notion of the will of God is important for us as well and for us, what is will of God?

Each of us have chosen a way of life. A number of factors went into the choice, but whatever we have become, we are choosing some way of spending our time on this earth. We are called to live that way of life following the principles of Jesus Christ. So the concept of following the will of God means nothing more or less than actually following Jesus's directives as we are living the way of life that we have chosen for ourselves.

The student follows what Jesus taught as she/he studies. The retired person accepts the virtues that Jesus set up as she/he sets her/his own pattern of living in retirement. The married person lives the message of Jesus as she/he interacts with her/his spouse, indeed something that is quite difficult at times. The person involved in her/his chosen work in order to make money

SHAPING THE FRANCISCAN FOOTPRINT
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does so using the guidelines that Jesus taught us during his time on earth. In short, doing the will of God means that as we direct the line of activity in our lives that we have chosen--that we do it with the directives of the Lord as guidelines.

The will of God was uppermost in Jesus mind, leading him to redeem us. The will of God should likewise be uppermost in the follower of Jesus' minds—you and me, leading us to truly live our different chosen careers with Christian principles.

5 – “I asked, ‘What shall I do, sir?’” (Acts 22:10)

...Asked of our spiritual lives, Paul's question is what we should ask of the Lord in our own set of circumstances.