Diákrisis

Knowing the will of God

ECCEKENOO · SPIRITUAL FORMATION · A PATH OF DISCERNMENT

The way of the disciple

Humility: "Woe is me, purify me"

The first step is neither to speak nor to act, but to recognize one's own poverty before God. Mission begins with a heart humbly at God's disposal.

Abiding: "Here I am, Lord"

Mary teaches the disciple's basic posture: to remain before God, to listen, and to make oneself available.

Discernment: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening"

Faithful to his Word, the servant listens to God before speaking to others.

Enduring faith: "When man turns away from God, God does not turn away from man"

The true love of God is proved above all by perseverance in the time of trial.

Holy silence

"When a person truly enters into silence before God, he begins to discover what he would rather not see: pride, vanity, anger, attachment, sensuality, resentment, the desire to be recognized." The Word first consoles, but it also wounds in order to heal, and so becomes the beginning of the medicine that gives us back our health.

"All things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose."

From the gifts to the Giver

"Whoever asks for passing goods is still in spiritual childhood; whoever asks for God himself has begun to enter the maturity of the spirit." We imagine God's greatness within our own limits, but whoever truly meets God discovers that he always exceeds every thought. Material riches have value only when they are ordered towards God.

Wisdom

"Human intelligence can grow through study, but the deep wisdom that orders the whole of life towards God needs a higher light." Here the path stops being only a struggle against oneself and becomes a sharing in the life of God.

Heroic self-giving

"Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself" (Second Vatican Council, Gaudium et spes, 24). Purification leads to self-giving. The Cross reveals that fullness lies not in keeping oneself, but in giving oneself away for love.

Communion

The Cross is not only a past event: it becomes presence and food. The Eucharist is where the disciple learns to receive Christ's self-giving and to make of his own life a gift.

"Before the Word leaves our mouth, it must first have entered our heart."

Knowing the wisdom of God

The foundation of government

Wisdom is not simply a matter of giving orders; it is knowing how to serve. The wise ruler listens to God in order to do good to his people. Without true wisdom there is authority, but no discernment. The Son always shows forth the Father's wisdom in its fullness. Power and faith must go together with justice, humility, obedience to God and service to others.

Human responsibility

All received the chance to be faithful, and all had to answer freely before God. Grace does not remove freedom; it perfects it, because each person remains responsible for the answer given to divine love in the opportunity received: the steadfastness to remain faithful through trials and reach holiness along the road the Father chooses.

"Settle it in your hearts not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict."

When the heart turns away from God

When the heart turns away from God, even the greatest human structures can collapse. The splendor Solomon reached could not last once his heart stopped being faithful.

Human unfaithfulness cannot destroy God's faithfulness

People try to fashion a religion that suits their own interests, but God cannot be reduced to an image made by human will. True worship requires obedience and remaining in the truth. Sin has consequences, and no human power can take the place of God.

Decline and the voice of the prophets

In times of spiritual decline God does not abandon his people: he raises up prophets to be the voice of his covenant. They denounce sin, call to conversion and announce the hope to come. The prophet reads history through God's eyes; his mission is to bring the people back to truth and faithfulness. Prophets also denounce corruption and injustice, above all when those in authority abuse it, and call the people back to God through justice, obedience and love of neighbor.

"The prophetic word, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

Staying beside those who suffer

Feeling different can hurt more than being alone. A door that closes can take away an outward support so that the soul learns to lean more deeply on God. Staying beside someone who suffers, even when we cannot change their situation, is one of the purest forms of Christian love: a love that sets no conditions and is not afraid to lose everything, because it has already found everything in the love of Christ.

Division and restoration

Division is often born of pride; communion is born of self-giving. The unity Solomon lost through unfaithfulness, Christ restores through his perfect obedience to the Father.

The way

- "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the mouth of two or three witnesses."
- "Truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."
- "Go through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark, a tau, on the foreheads of those who grieve over all the abominations committed in it."
- "Keep watch, then, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Do not make your desires the center of your life; make God your greatest desire. Trust in him, and let him guide your heart.

> *A recreation, in Eccekenoo's format, of the original five-page path in Spanish; the scripture is rendered from the author's Spanish. The line on self-giving, attributed in the original to Saint Gregory the Great, comes from the Second Vatican Council (Gaudium et spes, 24) and is credited accordingly.*