

*In this period of "Ordinary Time" we pray you will discover a new awareness of God's Word and God's love and presence in your lives through these reflections.*



**A Closer Examination of ...  
"Accepting God's Will in My Life"  
Through Decisions that Trust God!**

Jesuit Father Mitch Pacwa, of EWTN and the author of How to Listen When God Speaks: A Guide for Modern-Day Catholics (The Word Among Us Press, 2011), explains this method of trusting God's will:

"The first and most basic principle is to have humility sufficient to accept God on God's own terms, That means accepting what the Lord has revealed about himself in Scripture, Tradition and through the Church's Magisterium.

"Discernment comes into play quite legitimately when you have two options, both of which are good in and of themselves," For instance, discovering what state in life one is called to: priesthood, married life or religious life. "All of these in and of themselves are good," he says. "The question is of knowing which one of those goods is the best way for me to give greater glory and service to God."

Two attitudes help us be better able to discern God's will. One: How is this option for the greater glory of God? And, how am I going to give God homage in this way and God's people better service in my life? Two: Be truly equal-minded toward all good options." This means wanting to do whatever God wants because I trust God has the greatest good awaiting me by my involvement in that choice.

Bishop Fulton Sheen suggested that our best way to know God's will is in prayer. It silences the ego from its many clamorous demands so that I might hear the wishes of God's divine heart and better do what I can do for God's honor and glory!

**Our Lady of the Fields Church  
Scriptural Review & Reflections  
Saturday & Sunday October 7 & 8, 2017**

*For more information on any of the parish Faith Enrichment programs contact the Evangelization and Faith Formation Office & Staff or  
Dr. Little at [tlittle@olfparish.com](mailto:tlittle@olfparish.com)*

**The Acts of the Apostles: A Book for  
Disciples:**

**Acts Ch 16: "Into New Territory"**

As we noted last week, Paul's habit was to meet first with the local Jewish synagogue members and then to reach out through the general population to spread the gospel. This evangelization strategy contributed to many conversions both in the Jewish community and in the larger public arena.

However, verses 6-9 remind us that our strategies are not always the strategies which the Lord blesses. When it became clear to Paul that his intended mission to Bithynia was not blessed by the Spirit, he and his entourage discerned they were then called to Philippi in Macedonia. There Paul sought out a fabled Jewish meeting at the river bank involving a group of women.

And on the bank he met Lidia, a God-fearer and a Gentile who, with her whole household came to realize something very powerful, attractive and wise in the Jewish traditions. The Lord opened Lidia's heart to accept the gospel and she and her entire household were baptized. In return, Lidia opened her home to the missionaries, a most generous hospitality for Paul and his friends. YES! God knows who we should know!

Still, not all interactions with women were as cordial. A slave girl "soothsayer" told the public Paul was sent by Zeus or a god at the top of the local pantheon. That was a clear threat to her owners' livelihood and they accused Paul and Silas of disturbing the peace and got the crowd to beat them and throw them into the local prison. Even then, good preaching was dangerous!