

**5th fasting impulse on March 17th, 2021**  
**The wisdom of men and God's plan**

I invite you again today to deal with the following impulse during this week of fasting (from Wednesday to Tuesday).

Take some time for yourself; look for a quiet place, a comfortable sitting position, quiet music if necessary. You can keep what is known as a "fasting diary" if you wish. You can light a candle. It is entirely up to you how you want to use this impulse for yourself!

How often do we wish for something and ask God for it - only to experience that our wish does not come true!

Why is that? Have we wished for something that is impossible to achieve? Or was this wish not useful or not good for us at all? Does God have something completely different in mind for us?

How can I know?

How can I find out what God has in store for me, what His plan is for me? How can I decide how to behave, which way to go in my life?

With what signs was I born into this world, with what talents, what inclinations did God endow me with? What kind of life has HE called me to?

If I want to take my Christianity seriously, then I can orientate myself on the first letter of Peter, in which it says: *"Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous!"* (1 Pet 3:8)

To be merciful and humble means not to judge the person next to me, not to condemn their otherness, to allow them what I also allow myself to do: to love and be loved, to be happy with everything that defines them. For how can I presume to decide what God has in mind and what God wants for him?

How can I presume to decide that he is leading his life in the wrong direction - as opposed to me ...

Then I would have to touch my own nose, in the spirit of the Gospel of Matthew, which says: *"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."* (Mt 7:1-5)

To ground myself, to make it clear to me that it is God who is writing my life plan, I can take an example from King Solomon, who has become famous for his wisdom and who prayed for it, knowing that the Man is limited in his knowledge. Here's how we find the following in the Book of Wisdom:

*"Give me the wisdom that sits enthroned at your side and do not cast me out of your group of children! I am your servant, the son of your maidservant, a weak person, whose life is short and too little insight into justice and law ...*

*For which person can recognize God's plan or who understands what the Lord wants? The deliberations of mortals are uncertain and our thoughts are simple; ... We hardly guess what is going on on earth, and only with difficulty find what is obvious; who finds out what is in heaven?" (Wis 9,4f.13f.16)*

Shouldn't we trust that God created everyone for who they are instead of choosing how they would be better? How do I look at my fellow human beings? How do I feel about them as opposed to me? Do I give them the right to live their individuality instead of living up to my ideas?

A full program for a week of fasting and beyond!