

DECISIVENESS

DECISIVENESS is having the ability to finalize difficult decisions while thoughtfully considering relative details. Make decisions based on a commitment to character instead of popular opinion.

The “Spotlight of the World” is focused on the Olympic Games and in New York the Empire State Competitions, including those persons with disabilities attempting to develop their athletic strengths to full potential. They are our heroes at the moment and we applaud them for exercising the virtue of DECISIVENESS.

A person training for a competitive event chooses to let go of many other demands on their time, energy and finances. It is truly a team effort, involving family, friends and volunteers, who are personally invested in that person’s dream of winning the prize. Knute Rockne, the memorable player and coach of Notre Dame University Football Team always taught that “success is rooted in being prepared. Only when an athlete is prepared can they begin to apply strategy in playing the game toward victory.”

DECISIVENESS has another important aspect that cannot be overlooked. DECISIVENESS to be truly authentic includes commitment and perseverance.

As Christians, we also cannot ignore the truth that Jesus came to show us how to become fully human. Yes, becoming fully human is growing into a person who is capable of loving fully and therefore finding God in our lives. For those of us whose lives have been personally touched by Jesus, leading us to fully embrace His way of life, as disciples, DECISIVENESS is at the heart of the call.

Living and loving fully empowers a person by the grace of God to offer one his life for others. There can be no gift of self without sacrifice. Sacrifice for someone or something that we cherish is not a negative force, but rather a positive use of a person’s energy. So, we celebrate down through the centuries the exhilarating experience of claiming the prize:

Olympians receive their medal
Graduates receive their diploma
Martyrs for Christ receive their Crown of Glory
Disciples of Christ ultimately enter into Eternal Life.

Jesus stood firmly in confronting the false spirituality of the Pharisees and Sadducees of his day.

Over and over again Jesus attempted to illustrate that Sabbath prohibitions decided by the “law-makers” of his day were missing the people whom the Law was meant to serve. Jesus was Decisive. In healing the man with the withered hand he asked: “I ask you, is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than destroy it? ... Stretch out your hand ... and his hand was restored.” (Luke 6:6-11)

St. Paul frequently alluded to the race for the prize of one’s life. “... but you be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship ... I have competed well, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith ... (2 Timothy 4:1-8)

So, let us continue to stretch toward the finish line, moving forward with DECISIVENESS, recognizing that the embraces, the cheers, the warm salute awaiting us is recognition of who we are called to be in the service of humanity, and in the name of our Brother/Savior, Jesus.

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