

This meditation is from Nathan D. Mitchell, from the booklet, *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter* (by Liguori Publications).

A Reflection on the Third Week of Lent

Doing the Impossible

The Rule of St. *Benedict*, one of the great spiritual guides in the Christian tradition, has an entire chapter (68) devoted to how we should react if we're asked to "do the impossible." We should first be practical, the *Rule* explains; instead of trying to act like superman or superwoman, we should see if another, more reasonable path is possible. If not, Benedict says, we ought to move forward, trusting and loving God. In some ways, this was the situation that confronted Jesus' mother at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. It was the usual scene: a nervous bride, an impatient groom, drunken guests, and poor planning on the part of the caterer. When Mary pointed out the problem—the wine's gone—Jesus basically told her to cool it. *That* was the "impossible" advice Mary got. How can you stay cool when everyone around you is shouting for "more, more, more?"

"Do whatever he says," Mary told the caterers, with perhaps a bit of exasperation (see John 2:5). Like her, when I'm faced with impossible situations, my task isn't to understand. That's God's job. My job is to find that center of serenity and peace within my heart where I can let go of my obsession to "solve every problem" and "micromanage every situation." Analytic minds may find this hard to swallow, yet serenity truly is the pathway to peace, and it works every time. I can't control outcomes, but I can try not to let outcomes control *me*.

God, grant me serenity...