

Future

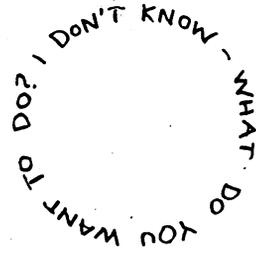
Thought: Lord, we're rapidly approaching
so many big decisions--
college...
careers...
marriage...
lifestyles.

How can we make these huge decisions
when we can barely decide what to do today?

We fall into frustrating circular conversations:
to avoid making even the smallest decisions,
being responsible for our actions
or the actions of others,
living with the results of our choices,
making a commitment.

And at the same time,
we long for the freedom to make our own choices,
to be cut loose from the decisions made for us as children.
To grow, to make the journey into adult life,
we must overcome the fear of making decisions.

Will you help us, Lord?
We need your strength to help ourselves and one another.



Prayer: "The Road Ahead" by Thomas Merton

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think that I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.¹

1. Thomas Merton, *Thoughts In Solitude* (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc.)