

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 4, 2016**

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST'S WORD



Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus,
and he turned and addressed them,
"If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother,
wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life,
he cannot be my disciple.

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple.

Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and
calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?
Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to
finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him
and say, 'This one began to build but did not have
the resources to finish.'

Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide
whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another
king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops?
But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for
peace terms.

In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his
possessions cannot be my disciple."

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BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

The Demands of Discipleship

In chapter 14 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus is speaking to people gathered at the table about the difficulties of following him. This group of people is suspicious about Jesus, looking to catch him doing something wrong. Jesus speaks to them in parables, emphasizing that although there is a right way to be a disciple and enter into the kingdom of his Father, it is a difficult path to follow. Many, even some of the guests at the table, reject the invitation. So Jesus turns to the crowds and speaks to them of discipleship. Jesus explains that, when it comes to making a choice for the Kingdom of God, nothing can get in the way. When Jesus describes “hating” one's father and mother, he is not talking about feelings. Rather, he is emphasizing very strongly that choosing to be a disciple means that everything else—family, money, your own life—must come second.

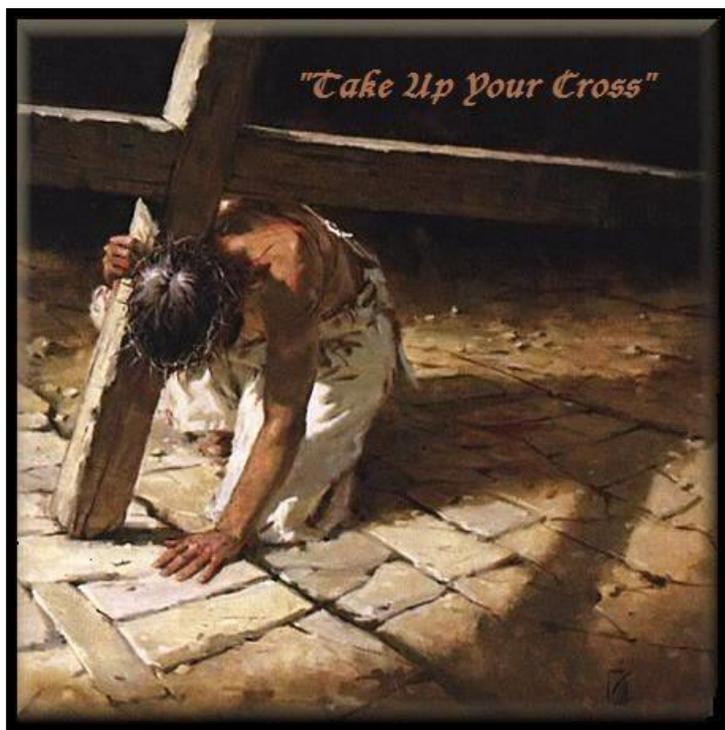
In Matthew's version of this story ([Matthew 10:37](#)), Jesus refers not to “hating” father or mother, but to *loving them more* than Jesus. Jesus makes it very clear that being a disciple is not easy. It means to bear one's own cross. These difficult sayings of Jesus are followed by two brief parables (a person constructing a tower and a king marching into battle) that make an obvious point—don't start what you cannot finish. Discipleship is difficult and is something we can commit to only if we are prepared to put the Kingdom of God before everything else.

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LASALLIAN VALUE IN ACTION



To be a Christian
is to be Christ's
Disciple...

*To carry our
cross and
accompany
Jesus on the
way of the cross.*

(Fr. Greg Friedman, OFM)

MASS SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK

Monday, Wednesday = 7:40 AM, Class Mass, GS Prayer Room
Tuesday = 8:15 AM Batch Mass, OLStar Chapel
Thursday = 7:40 AM Class Mass, OLStar Chapel
Friday = 8:15 AM Sacred Heart Mass, SPLT

Sources:

www.usccb.org
www.dailygospel.org
www.loyolapress.com