

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

I C Q S G U L J S B
 W E R N N E C A E P
 C F F O Y R R A C C
 D O M I W W F H R A
 I S N S W D U A U N
 S R T S Y N S T O R
 C E R E T A L I S E
 I H O S C R T N E H
 P T O S A E U G R T
 L O P O L M S C M O
 E R S P C T S V T M
 U B M F U T O W E R
 O O N O L Y R R L B
 C A D V A N C I N G
 T R E H T A F R O K
 Y R E D E C I D E R
 E S I W R E H T O O
 N E R D L I H C H W
 F O U N D A T I O N
 S I S T E R S E B C

ADVANCING
 BROTHERS
 CALCULATE
 CARRY
 CHILDREN
 COMPLETION
 CONSTRUCT
 CROSS
 CROWDS

DECIDE
 DISCIPLE
 FATHER
 FOUNDATION
 HATING
 MOTHER
 OTHERWISE
 PEACE
 POSSESSIONS

RESOURCES
 SISTERS
 TOWER
 TROOPS
 WIFE
 WORK

Catechizing Corner!

Discipleship is the word of the day. The gospel insists that the believer face the cost of discipleship. It demands that we willingly give our lives to Christ and the spreading of the Good News. Today's gospel reminds us that the call of the gospel is radical. Discipleship insists that believers embrace the gospel's demanding implications. The Christian must make difficult choices.

It seems that Jesus' intended audience is the crowd he has just invited to the messianic banquet, the poor, the lame, the blind. The invitation was only the first step, however. The call to follow in the Master's steps, to take up the cross, is a lifetime endeavor. Thus, the call to this radical discipleship extends to all people, not just the twelve apostles. It is the vocation of every Christian.

It appears to the reader that Jesus is asking for something beyond comprehension. The literal challenge of today's pericope is even stronger than what appears in this translation. The literal translation says we are to *hate* our relatives. How can this be? Are we really suppose to *hate* our relatives and turn our backs on them? Luke Timothy Johnson asserts that the term *hate* (*misein* in Greek-the opposite of agape-love) reflects an attitude and a mode of action, not an emotion. Matthew softened the expression to "Whoever loves father or mother more than me." Luke, however, used the more original and severe wording. Luke's Christian knows exactly what the challenge of the gospel involves. Over-involvement with relationships and possessions will keep the believer from hearing, responding, and following through with God's call. Disciples cannot become so emotionally attached to their possessions and relationships that they are not free to embrace the demands of gospel living. "Part of the cost of discipleship is the willingness to forego the joys of security of family ties so as to be bound completely to Christ."

Mary Birmingham, Word and Worship
Workbook, Cycle C, Paulist Press, 1998



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Disciple's Reflection for the Question of the Week

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A Call to Prayer

The  Word
 of God

Luke 14:25-33

Faith Sharing

Call to Prayer

Begin by calling upon God: **In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

Let us pause for a moment, and listen attentively to this week's passage.

The Word of God Luke 14:25-33

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Anyone of you who does not renounce all possessions cannot be my disciple.

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them,

“If anyone 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Glossary

Jesus isn't really asking us to **hate** anyone. He commands us to honor our parents, and to love one another. He is saying that he has to come first in our lives.

The **foundation** of the building is a concrete slab or basement upon which it is built.

A **delegation** is a group sent by a leader to talk for him to someone

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:

Choose one

What are some possessions that you or society hold on to—whether they be physical, mental, or emotional—which present an obstacle to God?

What are some things that Holy Family, as a community, could let go of in order to more fully fulfill our mission statement?

What is “the tower” that you and your community are building? What are the resources needed to complete it?

Thanks to the Fair Trade Ministries for supplying this week's reflection questions.

Closing Prayer

God our Father, you redeem us and make us your children in Christ. Look upon us, give us true freedom and bring us to the inheritance you promised. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.