



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 14: 25–33

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Some things to think about...

In the Gospel, Jesus says something that might sound a bit surprising — he says we should "hate" our family if we want to follow him. But don't worry — Jesus doesn't want us to stop loving our mums, dads, brothers or sisters!

What Jesus really means is:

"I want to be the most important person in your life." Christians are called to put Jesus at the centre of all we do.

Jesus is asking us to love him with all our heart. Sometimes, that means putting him first — even when it's tricky. For example:

- Sharing something you love when someone else needs it
- Standing up for what's right, even if others aren't
- Following St Vincent de Paul's teaching to judge all people "in the most favourable light"

Following Jesus isn't always easy — it might mean giving something up or doing something we don't really feel like doing. But Jesus promises to help us, and he'll never leave us on our own.

Activity

Colour in the worksheet on the next page and write down ways that you can put Jesus at the centre of your life. These can be displayed in your school or parish.

Materials needed for the activity:

Copies of colouring sheet
Coloured pens / pencils

Teacher's Notes

The people Jesus was talking to in this passage were used to obeying and honouring their parents, so what he said must have been a shock. Jesus was emphasising that nothing should get in the way of following him. A disciple is one who learns from a teacher.

A follower of Jesus must be ready to make a full commitment to Jesus. We are a disciple when we treat those around us with care and respect. Sometimes being a disciple means making a sacrifice, it means putting others needs before our own (e.g. helping to tidy the house rather than watching my favourite television show.)

Notes:

- S T V I N C E N T D E P A U L -

Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favourable light at all times and under all circumstances.

