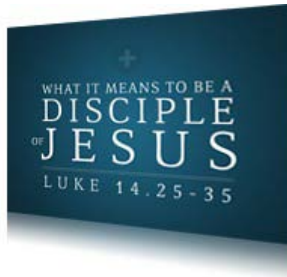


Seeds of Faith

Welcome to “**Seeds of Faith**,” a weekly faith sharing section of the parish bulletin that centers on the Sunday readings. We ask our parish family to reread the Sunday readings during the week and reflect on one sentence or paragraph in one of the readings—and put the words into actions. During evening dinner, we ask our families to discuss the “question of the week” with their children.

Sunday, September 5, 2010



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1	Wisdom 9:13-18b
Reading 2	Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Gospel Theme	<i>The Cost of Discipleship</i>
Gospel	Luke 14:25-33

Gospel Reflection

Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem when he stops to give this no-nonsense talk to a great crowd of people who want to follow him. Like any rabbi of his time, Jesus uses exaggeration to command attention. He wants to get the point across that he must be at the center of his followers' lives. Jesus insists that no one can be his disciple who does not consider him before family or self. The disciple who thinks he or she can serve Jesus part-time is foolish. She is like a builder who has no idea how much it will cost to complete a tower. He is like a king who goes to battle with no idea how many troops his enemy has. The disciple must be willing to renounce or give up everything out of love for Christ.

Gospel Discussion Points

No one loves us more than Jesus does. No one loves our family members – mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers – more than Jesus does. And he wants us to love one another.

But Jesus knows that sometimes what we think of as "love" may not be. Sometimes misguided "love" can prevent us from growing up and taking responsibility. True love frees us to be our true selves. Jesus is reminding us that we must take responsibility for our choices. We are free to *choose* to follow him. When we are little, we learn about Jesus from our parents and teachers and we follow their example. When we are older, we must begin to learn what Jesus means in our lives and to follow him because we *choose* him all the way!

Do you choose Jesus each day in your life? Why or why not? How? How are you learning more about Jesus so that you can choose to follow him? How does your choice of following Jesus make life better for others in your family and among your friends? What are your responsibilities in life? How do you choose to carry them out?

Question of the Week

Jesus challenges his followers to leave their possessions behind.

What could you let go of to follow Jesus more closely?

(Wm. H. Sadler-, excerpted from "We Believe Web," "[Gather in My Name](#)")