

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (v3)

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, & ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; & finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 14:25-33

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] & he turned & said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me & does not hate father & mother, wife & children, brothers & sisters, yes, & even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross & follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down & estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation & is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build & was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first & consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation & asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How do vv25-33 connect with 14:15-24? What about 12:49-53?
2. What connections do you find between Luke above & *Philemon 1-21*? By the way, it seems St. Paul is subtly making the case for Philemon to grant Onesimus’ freedom. *Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc.*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. “Hate” (v26) means to make a strong, stark distinction, choosing one thing over another. It doesn’t mean to be cruel, especially to our families (see Small Catechism:1st & 4th Commandments, Table of Duties). In what ways can families become a false priority over daily faithfulness? SC available bookofconcord.org
4. Many people in our culture- even fellow Christians- say, “I would do anything for my family.” Yet anything doesn’t include going to worship, reading the Bible, & praying, etc. How does the story of Naaman help you choose the simple faithful things for your family? How does it help you encourage others to do the same? *See 2 Kings 5:1-19*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. In a culture where Christians look & act nearly indistinguishably from non-Christians (including pornography & gossip/false witness) how do you tabulate the cost to be counted? (It often seems the greatest cost is being unliked & criticized for allegedly picayune morals.) What things must be renounced (v33) for discipleship? Build on #1, 3.
6. In v32 Jesus is NOT promoting “compromise” (or defiance). Such “terms of peace” between kings were often financial, the weaker paying “tribute” to the stronger. What does St. Paul add in *Romans 12:9--13:10*, esp. *12:18, 13:8*? How do Christians have more (or less) to give up for discipleship (v33) in our culture?

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Series: Celebrating God's Gifts

09.04.22
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

A Life Shaped by Baptism
Following Jesus has its costs... & its gains

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Whoever does not carry the cross & follow me
cannot be my disciple. (v27)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Let your face shine upon your servant,
& teach me your statutes. (Psalm 119:135)

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