



Reflection on Luke 14: 25-33 (Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time) – September-04-2022

**“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27)**

### **1. The first point of the Gospel’s weekend is to renounce.**

In the Gospel of this week, Jesus teaches us about becoming the disciples of Jesus, we must also walk the same path as Jesus. His way is to renounce, to accept the cross. Do we dare to give up on ourselves? Do you dare to sacrifice for the benefit of others like God? Moreover, Jesus wants us to put God’s love above all things that are, truly to be His disciples.

In this passage Jesus speaks to us “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:26).” The renunciation of all selfishness to follow God shows determination to commit to serving God and the Kingdom of God. This is the value that God leads each person to aim for and strive to achieve. Thus, acceptance of the cross, suffering, and even death are means of reaching our goal and helping us to become more and more like God. Jesus wants each of us to put Him first, asking us to love Him above all things and with all our strength. And only when we dare to give up all hindrances to love Him above all things will we be fully identified with Him. Then we will know to put things and people in the right place, know how to respect and love things and people rightly in the holy love of God.

### **2. The second point is to take up the cross**

Today’s Gospel showed Jesus as the center of the Christian life. All values become relative before the absolute: Jesus. Money and wealth, spouse, children, family are values. Life is a value. But above all those values, we choose Jesus as the “Absolute Value” of all values. This is what the martyrs chose. When facing the cross, people are afraid. Jesus himself was troubled with his cross and called it a “bitter cup” in the Garden of Olives, but God’s love for him overcame his hesitation and fear, and he resolved to do his Father’s Will. Putting the cross in our lives, you and I will clearly see moments of storms, the hidden places of pain in the unshared heartaches that make us want to give up our lives in disappointment. Today, Christ invites you and me to take up the cross of our lives and move towards the Calvary of hope. The cross that each of us carries does not exalt suffering, it teaches us a spirit of overcoming suffering with the love of God, and Jesus will always stand at the end of the road to reward those who overcome obstacles that challenge us.

### **3. Requirement of love**

So what Jesus meant was that if anyone wants to be his disciple, they must put God’s love above all love, in other words, God’s love must permeate and guide all love: Love of family, love of friends and even yourself. Thus, when believers have chosen to follow the Lord and be his disciples, they still have to love their relatives, family and friends; they still have to love themselves; they must also cherish their possessions as a gift from God. But when needed, all those feelings must be sacrificed for the love of God. That is the value ladder that every disciple who follows Jesus must set for himself.

Following God is not a matter of gain but a matter of love. Love is loyalty. Love is giving, giving slowly, giving forever, and giving life. That describes a love worthy of God’s love. The invitation of this week’s Gospel is to give, to receive, to forget yourself is to find yourself, to die in order to live forever.