

The Cost of Discipleship



Scripture:

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them,

“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’

Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Luke 14:25-33

Reflection:

My name is Rev'd Charlotte and I'm the new Chaplain here at Holy Trinity – please come say hello but don't be surprised if it takes me a long time to remember your names, this is something I find to be really difficult!

I wonder what you find difficult in life? Maybe that's getting up early and back into the routine of school! Whatever it is, all of us find some things harder than others. It can be a bit like carrying a heavy rucksack that weighs us down and makes it a little bit harder to do the things we're supposed to do.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we need to be willing to let go of anything that is holding us back from putting him first in our lives because our faith needs to be our first priority. Basically, he's asking us to put down the rucksack of things that hold us back so we can be free to wholeheartedly follow him. So as the new school year starts, I wonder if there's anything that is holding you back that you need to lay down or get rid of to allow you to fully and freely become a disciple of Christ? My prayer for you this new school year is that you will be able to lay those things down and put Jesus first.

Prayer:

God of Wisdom, we bring to you those mental and emotional rucksacks that feel heavy and difficult to carry. Help us to learn what we can lay down and leave behind.

In this new year, help us grow in our knowledge and love of you, so we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly. Amen.

