

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

September 8, 2013
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectionary: 129
Gospel Lk 14:25-33



Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."



Spiritual Reflection

What is your plan? Jesus in today's Gospel gives us two parables about the importance of planning. One should never build a tower without planning and budgeting and one should never go into battle without some sort of strategy (and perhaps even a backup plan). What is our plan as we build our bodies into Temples of The Holy Spirit? What is our plan as we do battle with the sin in our lives? Who are role models and allies? How much time are you going to dedicate to prayer? If holiness is the goal of your life then how are you going to get there?

Spiritual Question

1. What is your plan for holiness?
2. What is your biggest faith challenge at the moment and how are you going to tackle it?
3. Who can help you build a firm foundation?
4. What faith practices do you think you should be doing?
5. Are you ready to commit to Jesus Christ?



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