

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 4 September 2022

Luke 14: 25-35

Last week we heard Jesus calling each of us to come out from our comfort zone. Challenging us to practice humility and hospitality in a banquet. On this Sunday in the conclusion of Luke chapter 14, Jesus sets out the cost of discipleship.

How many of us will make a major purchase without proper inquiries about the product?

How many of us join for a new job without enquiring about the company, or at least without visiting their website?

Jesus knows that we all are not perfect disciples but we still need to know To become a disciple, but Jesus wants us to what he expects from us

1. V.26: Jesus said you need to hate your household to follow him. You may be wondering what kind of God this is to hate everyone to follow him. The Greek word "*Misei*" which means hates has a different understanding from our English translations. It is used in a relative sense. So, to follow Christ- no person, and no personal priorities, are to be placed above the priority of the Person of Christ. Some churches and preachers and TV programs present the gospel as though they were selling a used car. Jesus' call was far different. He was not looking for any superficial commitments or a

crowd of tagalongs. He required his followers to be totally committed if they were following him.

2. V.27: Cross-bearing is a requirement for discipleship. The language of cross-bearing has been corrupted by overuse. Bearing cross has nothing to do with chronic illness or trying family relationships (CROSS). It is instead a consequence of what we voluntarily do for Christ. Cross-bearing requires deliberate sacrifice, exposure to risk, and ridicule to follow Jesus. This commitment is not a way of life but following the person. By following the person, we learn a new way of life.
3. V.33 says we cannot be his disciples until we let go of our possessions. Are we ready to let go of our possessions?

The cost of discipleship is paid in different kinds of currency. For some, a redirection of time and energy is required, for others a change in personal relationships, a commitment of financial resources for some even a change of vocation. A complete change in our priorities is required of all would-be disciples. There is no part-time or partial commitment accepted.

Are we ready to bear the cross and become a disciple of Christ?

AMEN