

Week Two: The Cost of Discipleship, Imagined and Real

Weekly Prayer:

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Weekly Questions:

I am usually willing to assume risk when I perceive the benefit of the reward worth the possible cost. How do you measure risk and benefit in your life? Do you prefer short-term, or long-term returns on your efforts and investments? Jesus asks us to follow him, and then he speaks of his own suffering and how we are expected to take up our own crosses as we follow. What is the cross you bear? Is it one of your own making? Has another laid their burden on your shoulders instead? What does it mean to assume to you to assume the personal cost of discipleship that Jesus offers?

Daily Challenge

- Take 15 minutes a day of your day to sit quietly, allowing your mind, body and soul to relax while inviting Christ to come alongside you as you make your way through the coming day. Read the Daily Scripture and take at least 5 minutes with each day's question
- Review your personal prayer list. Add any names that have come up in the past week that come to mind. If you decide to remove any names (and that is ok!), then pause and commend them to God's care as you refocus your intercessions on others
- When you have the time, as close to noon as you are able, pray the Office for Noonday, BCP p. 103

Daily Scripture:

- Sunday's Scripture:
 - Romans 6:3-14
 - Your Question: St. Paul tells us that we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and so we die to sin and rise to new life. What must die in you in order to allow new life to rise?
- Monday's Scripture:
 - I Corinthians 4:8-21
 - Your Question: What is it to be? A stick...or love?
- Tuesday's Scripture:
 - Psalm 62
 - Your Question: When has God been a rock to you? A Salvation? Are your safety and honor in God today?

- Wednesday's Scripture:
 - Jeremiah 18: 1-11; 18-20
 - Your Question: The potter is willing...what sort of vessel are you being molded into as a disciple of Jesus?
- Thursday's Scripture:
 - Mark 4: 21-34
 - Your Question: Disciples, apostles, are the seed sown by God's will. What growth will come from you...when and where you are planted?
- Friday's Scripture:
 - Mark 4: 35-41
 - Your Question: Can you remember a time in your walk as a disciple of Jesus when storms threatened you, or those you love?
- Saturday's Scripture:
 - Psalm 103: 1-12
 - Your Question: How have you experienced God's forgiveness in your life? When did it happen, and what did it feel like? How have you returned a blessing to God in those moments?

The Weekly Gathering:

Collect for II Lent:

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Gospel:

Mark 8:31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

- Open your gathering with the appropriate Daily Office for the hour of the day
- Hold silent prayer for 3-5 minutes
- One person reads the Collect for the Week, and then all pause to reflect on the prayer (2-3 minutes)
- Another person reads the lesson for the evening

- After a short period of quiet meditation (3-5 minutes), all recite the Lord's Prayer and then discuss:
 - How have your own life decisions deepened your awareness living life carries a cost?
 - What does the word "Disciple" mean to you and to your group? Are you a "Disciple?" Do you know someone who embodies the definition of the word as your group has defined it?
 - When you answer the call of Jesus to be a disciple, what costs can you imagine that there will be?
 - Re-read the Gospel passage and ask this question of the group: "What are the costs of discipleship in Jesus? How has my understanding of the cost of discipleship changed this evening?"
- Close your time together with the next Daily Office liturgy