



**September 8 2019 // 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."

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**Spiritual Reflection:** The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand. - Vince Lombardi. People playing sports professionally have to put team obligations like practice first and family fun second. Jesus desires us to put Him above all because doing so will not only allow us to achieve prize of heaven but also improve the lives above us.

#### **Spiritual Questions**

1. How will putting God first improve the rest of your life?
2. How will putting God first improve your relationships with others?
3. What do you need God to give you in order to follow Him?
4. What spiritual enemies do you have that you need God's help for?
5. What possessions keep you from following God's will?