

Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year

Consider the cost

INTRODUCTION

If we are really determined to do something, even though it might be difficult, then we can succeed. Jesus tells us that it is never easy to follow him, but we can succeed if we decide we really want to.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 3.

SORRY

It is hard to be good all the time, and God, our father, knows and understands this. Let us ask for forgiveness as we sing Sorry Song 4.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

GOSPEL (LUKE 14:28-33)

Jesus said to the crowd, "If a man plans to build a house, he works out how much it will cost before he begins. Otherwise, he might lay the foundations, and then find that he cannot afford to finish the work. If a king's army of ten thousand men is preparing to fight an army of twenty thousand men, would the king not consider whether he might win or lose? If defeat is likely, then he will send out messengers to make peace with his enemy."

Then Jesus said, "If anyone plans to follow me, then he must count the cost of being my disciple and belonging to the kingdom of God."

DISCUSSION

What would a wise man do before starting to build a house? He would first consider the cost of everything he might need cement, wood, bricks, roof tiles, and so on. If the total cost was more than he could afford, then he would be foolish to begin.

What did Jesus say about the king and his army? The king thought about the "cost" to his army of being outnumbered in battle. He could

not win and was not prepared to have his soldiers killed, so he decided not to fight the battle at all and to make peace instead.

It is not easy to be a follower of Jesus and to live as he taught us to. He wants us to think carefully about what is expected of us if we are to be his disciples: to love one another; to keep God's rules; to be kind and forgiving; and all the other qualities of being truly Christian.

Although it can be hard and the costs are sometimes high, why do we choose to follow Jesus? Each of us wants to find true happiness, to be filled with a sense of peace, and to be loved. By following Jesus, we can belong to the kingdom of God, where we will know enough love, peace, and happiness to make any *costs* worthwhile.

ACTIVITY

Make a copy of the activity sheet for each child and discuss each picture with reference to today's Gospel story.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help us to follow you always,
and give us the strength
to carry on when we are struggling.
Help us to make the effort
to do things God's way,
so we will be able to share in your glory
at the end of time.

