

## **REFLECTIONS on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.... 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

### **THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP** ( Luke: 14: 25---33)

“ Anyone who comes to me without hating father, mother, wife, sisters ....cannot be my disciple”

The following of Jesus requires a strong will , courage, and personal resources to complete the task. Some people have trouble with the word “hating” family members prior to a full discipleship of Jesus. The actual translation is a literal one of the original Aramaic spoken by Jesus, and is a decisive and not a descriptive word of the influence Jesus has on our relationships, and of the power of His Call. Following Him has to be a priority and not a secondary option , for which renunciation of family ties is necessary. Not that we are to stop loving/caring for our families, but to see them as a means of serving the Lord, not as an end in themselves.

This commitment calls for a radical offering up of all one holds dear , and a significant re-ordering of one’s choices. It is not for the faint-hearted.

“We pray for all who follow the Lord in a radical way; give them fidelity and courage .”

## **REFLECTIONS on 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday ....15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 ).....Luke15:1—32 /or 1-10.**

### **THE LOST SHEEP/ LOST COIN/ PRODIGAL SON.**

The emphasis in this story seems to be one of “REJOICING” when people/ animals /objects lost are found. We are introduced to –The Shepherd, who leaves the 99 to search for the lost –not an easy task to do in the desert.....would a person do that today ?---would he/she place value on the deviant one to the exclusion of the rest of the herd? Perhaps the “shepherd” thought there was a certain security in numbers—but it was a chance he took –risking his life and the rest of his flock to fate. Then quickly followed by rejoicing on the finding. Then St. Luke, inclusive as usual, changes the gender of the subject in the story of the Lost Coin for which a thorough search produces good results—again REJOICING”

The 3<sup>rd</sup> parable tells of the Lost Son who grabs all before his father’s death, but who returns, forgiven and repentant to his father’s arms. Again , large REJOICING.....IF ordinary humans are so affected by a story of loss and return, what is God’s reaction in comparison (?), while the restoration of family ties became the priority for the father after the party..

Lord give us respect for all who are seeking and searching for true meaning and values in life’s journey.

## **REFLECTIONS on 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday. 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

“The children of the world are more astute than the children of light”: ( Luke 16:1-13).

### **“ BEING TRUSTWORTHY , & THE VALUE OF MONEY”**

The unscrupulous steward was commended by the Lord because he knew how to turn disadvantage to his credit, and to use situations to advance his own career and status with others.

A most unusual story/parable :it reminds us of crafty and unscrupulous money-lenders. It portrays a wily businessman about to be sacked who uses cunning and guile to get a reprieve by further

employment from another merchant whom he befriends to the latter's advantage. The Lord , through the words of the Master, commends his sagacity even if unscrupulous, because he uses things like money to get on the property ladder—comparing it to our own lack of enterprise when it comes to advancing the cause of right , and the values of the Kingdom. We need to take a leaf out of the book of the unscrupulous merchant.

We ask to use all the situations in which we are placed to advance the Kingdom of he Lord and to use material goods wisely.