

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time -C 2010
Wisdom 9.13-18///Phil. 9.10,12-17///Luke 14. 25-33.

→in the 23 years that I have been a priest, I have had opportunity to witness some pretty significant events in the lives of people, but perhaps most special has been being able not only to watch my 3 brothers and one sister get married....but to be able to officiate at all of their weddings.....

→I am sure many of you have been involved in weddings....maybe you have been fortunate enough to witness your own child get married, certainly [I am sure] you have seen a close friend get married, and if you, yourself are married, I am sure you fondly remember your own wedding

→a wedding ceremony, [without a doubt] is a significant event

→because at each and every wedding those participating in the wedding, the bride and groom make a choice

→they make the choice to spend rest of lives together as husband and wife

-→a wedding celebrates the choice made by two people to be together and with that choice sometimes comes a hefty price tag, <not only does the wedding itself cost a pretty penny> but it also costs something else in terms of the relationship ---/-- the commitment made between a married couple cost something on the part of each person

---->[and].....early on in life all of us learn that all relationships, whether it be husband and wife, or good friends or just acquaintances, all the relationships we are involved in carry with them a price tag

---crossing the bridge from ME to WE costs us something [just like a toll bridge, or freeway costs something]

→because as soon as anyone of us enters into any relationship, no matter how significant or not it may be.....the ME becomes WE and with that WE comes needs and preferences and wants and desires...of someone else besides ourselves

→and that is the cost of being in a relationship

-→the price of any relationships is that it is no longer me, myself and I....but instead it is now US & WE

and you know as well as I DO...that if any of our relationships are to work or succeed....then it is going to cost us something

and if we are not willing to pay, if we are not willing to give into the cost of a relationship, then the relationship is usually doomed for failure, and very quickly it disappears and goes away

PAUSE

→[well] in today's gospel J. is telling the crowds and he is telling you and me about...the cost of relationships and in particular the cost of a relationship with him

and J. uses some very graphic examples to point out the cost of a relationship with him

---following J., becoming a disciple, is not like joining a swim club or a bowling league or a football team or bridge club

---[on the contrary] saying yes to Jesus, being in a relationship with him....[as we hear] is not simply about tacking on another activity onto our already busy lives and agreeing to abide by a few rules and regulations designed to keep order.....[instead].....--following Christ is a matter of constantly looking at our relationship with HIM and matching our priorities and our values to that of the gospel

---it is a question of checking our choices against the gospel message and doing what is right and necessary

which in our society today [unfortunately,] is not always the most popular or accepted thing to do

→ i.o.w. --- living the gospel and choosing to live the gospel message is not easy to do, and most certainly it is not always the most popular thing to do...in the world today

PAUSE

--->today's gospel reading [however] is about cost, the cost of relationships in our lives, and the cost of our relationship with Christ in our lives.

and the message before us is quite simple....there is a difference between being a disciple of Jesus Christ and simply belonging to a religion,

there is a difference in saying or praying a creed and living it

----[or perhaps to put it more bluntly]

-----there is a difference in saying I am a follower of Christ and living and acting as a follower of Christ

----and more often than not, we say a lot but rarely do we live what we say

----there is a difference in saying I am a Catholic and living and acting as a Catholic

---many of us say we are Catholic....but how many of us actually live it

and the examples could go on and on

→THE POINT IS THAT --- living a disciple of Jesus is going to cost us something on our part

→just as being in any relationship with anyone is going to cost us something on our part as well

→and what is so terribly sad these days is that there are too many people who unfortunately walk away from relationships in their lives when they discover what the cost is

----they walk away from marriages

----they walk away from friendships

-----they walk away from the Church

----- and, they walk away from Christ

PAUSE

→entering into a relationship with Christ is the challenge of the gospel today

and with it comes a cost

////////and Christ is telling you and me that the COST is not something that is going to be easy

its not going to be simple,

and its not going to be cheap

----the costwill eventually be your life as well as a lot more in the course of living on this earth

----and so.....in the end the only and real question we need to ask ourselves is the same question Christ is asking in the gospel today

...do you want a relationship with Christ and if soare you willing to pay the cost