



Luke 14:25-33 New Revised Standard Version

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Notes _____



“Anyone can support a team that is winning—it takes no courage.”
—Bart Starr (NFL Hall of Famer)

Awful. Pure and simple, there is no other way to describe them. As of my writing (Tuesday), they hold a record of 12-50 (that is 12 wins to 50 losses). No, not someone else’s team, but the one of which I have been a longtime fan: the Oakland A’s. There was a time when the A’s were a real threat in Major League Baseball, but over the years they have been on a slide. There have been a few bright spots in the past twenty years, but not enough “to write home about.” I will admit, sticking with a team can be difficult.

Sticking with something is at the heart of what Jesus shared with a large crowd on the occasion of today’s text. One would think that, when surrounded by many people, Jesus would have said something a bit more loving, comforting, or even affirming. After all, the bigger the following the better! Or at least that is how things usually work in *our* logic. However, Jesus’ logic is not the same as ours. Not once in the Gospels does Jesus tell people what they want to hear or promise certain perks if they elect to follow him. He “shoots straight” and speaks out of brute honesty the truths of the Kingdom of God. If we are going to follow Jesus, we cannot do so only when the “weather is fair.”

- 1. Following Jesus is not for the faint of heart.**
- 2. To be a follower calls for careful consideration.**
- 3. Jesus doesn’t want to be one thing we follow.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, grant me the courage to follow you even when situations become difficult. Amen.