

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost VI The Cost of Discipleship

“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem”(Luke 9:51). Jesus is commencing a journey that will take him to the Cross in the narrative of this gospel. The “days draw near” for all of us sooner or later. We too look forward to being “taken up” in resurrection in the upward path created by our Master and Lord. We can identify with those who follow Jesus or we make excuses for delaying it as in other destiny moments. After all, he says that it is challenging and that unlike the birds and the foxes he has no assured nest or hole in the ground to rest. Jesus spoke directly to people when he called for commitment to the Way of the Reign of God. He often spoke indirectly when he was asked loaded questions. Perhaps we should too! Here he may sense that excuses are made and that situations are being invented. The man who wants to bury his father may be thinking ahead to the inevitable rather than staying in the actual moment of making a decision for discipleship. “Let the dead bury the dead” may imply that he should wait until the actual time of his father’s death. Another man wanted to say farewell his family, something that Jesus himself would have done at Nazareth with Mary and Joseph according to middle-eastern customs and courtesies. The punch-line follows: “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Reign of God” (Luke 9:62).

This Scripture was part of the gospel text for my first sermon. I made a mess of the sermon with this tough text, but I did say something that I still remember and believe: “All those who walk in the shadow of God cast a shining light, and all who walk within their light are inspired by it.” Turning to Christ is the most life-enhancing decision that we can make. If that were not so, why bother? It is also a call to decide between “truth and falsehood” “Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide” and that may be an added reason why Jesus is so adamant about it. Such moments come in every life. I put off making decisions in my own life that wasted years of potential happiness with someone of such beauty refinement and dignity that I just

sit and marvel. Trying to please other people can be very costly. Once you have made the move, whether it is a once-for-all decision for Christ or a crucial career or personal decision, then, as my father said, "Don't look back." As Christ said, don't let anything get in the way of running to him and with him to Abba. Once we have made the decision let us walk ahead with courage and hope in the Lord. **The decision to follow Christ draws many other decisions into their right alignment. Our life-legend written in heaven then becomes our lived legend that is our reality on earth.**

Once to every man* and nation

Comes the moment to decide

In the strife of truth with falsehood

For the good or evil side

Some great cause, God's new Messiah

Offring each the bloom or blight

And the choice goes by forever

Twixt that darkness and that light. **non-inclusive, but left here.*

Bishop Arthur Jones.

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

TO PLAN:



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 66:10-16; Psalm 66
Galatians 6:14-18;
Luke 10:1-12,16-20