

FR.TK. REFLECTIONS 23 rd SUNDAY YEAR C 2022.
THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP:

On becoming the Prime minister of the then Great Britain, shortly before the world war 11, Winston Churchill said to his nation, ***I have nothing to offer to you except blood, toil, tears and sweat!*** He didn't offer them only the above ***but also hope of victory.*** Might this have been his **cross** of being a prime minister of serving his people? What a significance commend in line with the the **cost of discipleship as we hear it from our gospel today!**

Jesus had preached and worked many miracles in Nazareth, Galilee and the environments, he was on his way to Jerusalem, he was very much aware of what is going to happen to him there. Due his popularity, a large **crowd of his would be followers, disciples** followed him and walked with him (Lk. 14:25). The crowd had very high expectation on him and his leadership. He would provide them with **drink as it happened in Canna, food, cure the sick, raise the dead.** They expected him to drive away the Roman political bondage and return the ruling to the Jews. This was the man.

-The crowd cheered him when he criticized the pharisees.

-The loved him, when he spoke against the legalism of scribes.

-They thought he was great when he pointed finger at the evil out there, they said yees this the man.

While they cheered him for all these accomplishment's, he now turned to the crowd of the admirers and put the challenge on them on the question of being his follower, what it entails to be his disciple, ***If you want to be my follower, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me!*** He looked at them, they looked at him, silence developed ***no YES nor NO stared at each other!*** what a silence indeed what are we going to answer today what comment. Did they think he was still the **best leader**, did they think he was now **possessed and gone bananas.** Maybe

they wanted to follow him **but without the cross ,we too want that comfort zone of following him but don't mention the cross.**He further added the insult on the injury to the already **would be followers by Saying you must give up your love for father,mother brothers,sisters,spouse take the cross and follow me(Lk.14.26-27).**I wonder how many followed him or how many went back after these stern warning of discipleship.

What is all this cross is he talking about,is it that wooden trunk which he is about to undertake in Jerusalem? Might it be **burden of the family issues,sickness,death,addition of any substance,failed marriage or strenuous relationship,working conditions,deviant character,anti social behavior.**

We all have **crosses and unique ones**,we experience the magnitude of the cross differently,crosses are like finger prints they are different. Carrying our crosses is the only way of showing our fidelity to the lord as his disciples,It is part of everyone life,we can **stare at it,deny it,complain about it,ignore,or follow Jesus in it.**It is here where he is **demanding of our total loyalty and commitments without undivided mind of our families and ourselves.**Are you ready to be his disciple now,are you ready to carry it and follow him or you are ready to back up!.Talking about the cross **doesn't bring salvation but carrying it faithfully does.**

Today we are called to **shoulder one another and give an hand to one another especially those having heavy challenging crosses facing them.**We are called to be another Simon of Cyrene,Veronica and the women of Jerusalem who accompanied Jesus Christ on his journey.We are called to be **committed disciples of Christ not fans of crowds.**

CAN YOU BE A SIMON,VERONICA,WOMAN/MAN OF JERUSALEM TO SOMEBODY TODAY?

