

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 23rd SUNDAY YEAR.-C- 2025:

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP:

On becoming the Prime minister of the then Great Britain, shortly before the Second World War 11, Winston Churchill said this to the Nation, ***I have nothing to offer you except blood, toil, tears and sweat but he not only offered the above also hope of victory hence never surrender.*** might this have been the cross of being a prime minister?

Jesus in today's gospel (Lk. 14:25-31) turned to the great crowd **would be disciples and offers them the cross.** just like Churchill offered the British people **hope of victory, Jesus offered the disciples cross with hope of glory.** There is no **crown without the cross neither the cross without the crown.** Jesus had preached and worked many miracles in Nazareth, Galilee and the surrounding, he was on his way to Jerusalem, he was aware of what was going to happen to him there. Many would be disciples followed him. They had very high expectation of him and his leadership. He would provide them with food and drinks, cure the sick raise the dead. They expected him to drive away the Roman political menace and return the ruling to the Jews. The crowd ***cheered him when he criticized the Pharisees, they loved him when he spoke against legalism of the scribes, they thought him great when he pointed finger at the evil out there, they said this is the man!***

While they cheered him for all that accomplishment, he turned to the crowd of the admirals and put the challenge to them on the question of being his **disciples, and what it entails** to if you want to be **my disciple, then you must deny yourself, take up your cross**

and follow me. He looked at them and they looked at him in amazement, a lot of silence developed **no yes nor no stared at each other!** The same question is **being asked of us today what is our response to discipleship? Are we ready to,** forgo ourselves, take up that wooden cross and follow him. What cross was Jesus referring to? Might it be that **burden of the family you are facing this minute, that sickness, impending divorce, court case, death of a loved one, addiction of any substance which has put the family in big issue, failed marriage or relationship, bad working conditions yet you must work, deviant character of your son or daughter unfaithful spouse** all have one or another of cross facing each person. We want to be disciples without the cross but the Lord is very straight forward we must take it and follow him.

All have unique cross dear friends we can **stare at it, deny it, complain about it ignore it or follow Jesus in it,** it is here where he is demanding our total, loyalty to and commitment without undivided minds of our families and ourselves how is your reaction to this great call, are you ready? talking about cross doesn't bring **salvation** but carrying it faithful does.

We are called today to shoulder one another cross and give an hand to one another especially those having heavy ones but not to overburden one another by adding more cross to already existing one.

Can we be like Simon of Cyrene and Veronica who assisted the Lord.

CAN YOU BE A SIMON, VERONICA, WOMEN OF JERUSALEM TO SOMEONE TODAY?