

NOVEMBER 3, 2021  
Memorial of St. Martin de Porres  
Luke 14: 25-33

“GIVE UP ALL FOR CHRIST.”

In today's gospel, Jesus has a shocking demand for people around Him, those who are listening and following Him: “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. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”<sup>1</sup> These crowd of people are enthusiastic but Christ goes beyond the superficial, He needs total commitment. Why Jesus said to follow Him must hate families and life itself? “The word ‘hate’ is a Semitic expression not to be taken literally. It could not be so taken as the whole of Jesus’ teaching is based on love not only of blood relatives but of strangers and even enemies. It is rather a dramatic way of saying that anyone who puts any person, even those closest to them, before total commitment to Christ and his mission is not ready to be a disciple. There can be no compromise here; it is all or nothing. We also have to say that Jesus is not recommending a literal abandonment of one's family. That could be highly irresponsible and a violation of that commandment of universal love. But it is clear that, for those who want to be part of Jesus' work, they have to give themselves completely and unconditionally. And, where there is a choice between the clear call of the Gospel and personal attachments, they have to let go of the latter.”<sup>2</sup>

We know that Jesus accepted with all humility and love the cross, out of His obedience to the Father's will, and out of a gracious and generous love for all of us in order to set us free from sin and Satan, and to be with Him in His love, truth, and goodness. Jesus also knew that this cross whom He embraced was God the Father's way to achieve victory over sin and death, and triumph for our sake too. By following the will of the Father, Jesus counted the cost and humbly said 'yes' to his Father. Like wise, we

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 14: 26-27 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

<sup>2</sup> [livingspace.sacredspace.ie](http://livingspace.sacredspace.ie)

too, if we want to be saved, be with Jesus and share His glory and victory, we must say 'yes' to Him and 'count the cost' in taking up our own crosses and, then follow Him as our Master, Lord and Savior.

My brothers and sisters, following the Lord must be complete, absolute, no reservation and unconditional. We can feel the crowd of people around Jesus, are they really ready to follow Him? How about us, after hearing the gospel, are we ready to abandon all for Christ? Am I ready? And what are the things I am holding and embracing to? What are the things I cannot let go of? And why?

St. Martin de Porres is one of my favorite saints. When I was in the seminary, I went to the library looking for something to read, I saw a book about him and without hesitation I decided to read his life. I was fascinated by his life and humility. "St. Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, and an illegitimate son. At a young age, Martin's father abandoned him, his mother and his younger sister, leaving Martin to grow up in deep poverty. As Martin grew older, he experienced a great deal of ridicule for being of mixed-race. In Peru, by law, all descendants of African or Indians were not allowed to become full members of religious orders. Martin, who spent long hours in prayer, found his only way into the community he longed for was to ask the Dominicans of Holy Rosary Priory in Lima to accept him as a volunteer who performed the most menial tasks in the monastery. Martin was praised for his unconditional care of all people, regardless of race or wealth. Martin's life reflected his great love for God and all of God's gifts. It is said he had many extraordinary abilities, including aerial flights, bilocation, instant cures, miraculous knowledge, spiritual knowledge and an excellent relationship with animals. During an epidemic in Lima, many of the friars in the Convent of the Rosary became very ill. Locked away in a distant section of the convent, they were kept away from the professed. However, on more than one occasion, Martin passed through the locked doors to care for the sick. However, he became disciplined for not following the rules of the Convent, but after replying, 'Forgive my error, and please instruct me, for I did not know that the

precept of obedience took precedence over that of charity,' he was given full liberty to follow his heart in mercy."<sup>3</sup>

My brothers and sisters, this is the way we follow the Lord, with tremendous love and serve others with humility. So, let us ask the intercession of St. Martin de Porres, that we too may give all to God and our neighbors by serving, loving and living the gospel of Christ. St. Martin de Porres, pray for us.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)