

The cost of Christian discipleship does at times seem overwhelming. God never asks for just a portion of us. Paul knows this well and in his letter to the church at Phillipi he reminds us to prove ourselves innocent and beyond reproach. Relationships of all types require maintenance and ongoing effort on our part. The sacramental construct of the Church, provides a framework around which to build healthy lives that are indeed innocent and pointed towards eternal salvation. Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick, Marriage and Holy Orders.

Jesus however, is the prime sacrament and in the gospel account this evening, reminds us that we too have a cross to carry. It is simple the cost of being a baptized follower! Our Lord doesn't condemn property ownership, and certainly isn't advocating we disregard important relationships. But instead, using strong language emphasizes, we mustn't become attached to things temporal. Possessions must never occupy more than a servant role in our lives.

The builder and king in these parables have a job to accomplish. But, before they begin, in prudence they must honestly assess their resources. The Christian is aware, that our capacity to build life and repel darkness is made possible only by our relationship to God.

We too are temporal and would often rather not carry any cross. Faith and discipleship in Jesus however, assures us, our efforts first and foremost are to joyfully give ourselves over to following Jesus.

Amen