

# TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 4, 2022

## Today's Homily

### The Demands or Commands of Discipleship?

*“If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple...In the same way, everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple” (Lk 14:26, 33).*

Some of the sayings of Jesus on discipleship are found in Luke 14:25-33 where the Lord orders his disciples to dedicate themselves totally to the mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God. For whatever reason, this gospel periscope or Luke's section on discipleship is usually titled, *“the demands of discipleship.”* I'll rather obey a command than a demand. And so for Luke 14: 25-33, the title, **“the commands of discipleship”** will be more persuasive and convincing to me and here is why.

God has the absolute power to command his children and his authority is found in his essence as our first principle and last end. That is why divine laws are called Commandments. And we love precepts and commands not demands. Scripture says, “The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye” (Ps 19:9). Again, “See how I love your [commands], Lord; in your mercy give me life” (Ps 119:159).

A Command is established with power, authority, love, respect, influence, and freedom. Scripture says, “All power [and authority] in heaven and on earth has been given to [Jesus]” (Matt 28:18). A “command” is an authoritative order with a vision. It is the divine nudge to carry out an order that will lead to our salvation and to the glory of God.

Here are a few things to ponder as we continue to dedicate or rededicate ourselves to the commands of discipleship: Discipleship is both faith building and a warfare. It requires a total reliance on the Holy Spirit, a thoughtful planning, a prayerful preparation, an empathic presence to one another, and the willingness to lovingly invite others to come to Jesus.

I invite all my beloved faithful of Transfiguration faith Community, by the Lord's commands, to renounce all, dedicate or rededicate totally to discipleship. The invitation may mean different things for different people. It may require you to accept the things you cannot change and to follow the Lord's commands to detach from our families and possessions, addictions, prejudice, mindset or preconceptions, and to be ready to suffer persecutions for the sake of the kingdom.

If the spiritual resources you need to grow deeper in your faith and or to fight every spiritual battle are running out, you must retreat, re-plan, reconcile, and restart. Discipleship is not only about going to church on Sundays. It is about the continuous conversion of heart through the good news of the kingdom and the powerful proclamation of the reign of God.

A genuine commitment to the commands of discipleship should convict and convince you to endure the suffering and persecution that may arise in your generous and sacrificial service to others. Authentic discipleship requires you to be a faithful spouse or parent, an obedient child, a loving family member, a devoted colleague or coworker, an empathic boss or supervisor, a devout or trustworthy parishioner, a devoted ministry team member or leader.

Perhaps you're holding back or still dragging your feet because of your perception of the requirements for discipleship. Do what the Lord commands you to do. If we do not obey divine commands and principles, we will continue to complain or see the call to discipleship and mission not only as demanding but also as a heavy burden to be shoved aside. If our families are falling apart or our churches are empty, we need to examine our relationship with the Lord and one another, repent, and call on the Holy Spirit to give us a fresh start. Jesus promised to “ask the Father...[to] give you another Advocate to be with you always” (John 14:16).

Only one thing could stand on your way to discipleship. You! So renounce yourself, “protest against” yourself, make a formal declaration to abandon your right or possession for the sake of the kingdom. You, your family or possessions must take second place so that the Lord's commands may order your steps.

Dear friends, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (II Tim1:7). **We are called to be faithful, not fearful.** Therefore, filled with and equipped by the Holy Spirit, we have the assurance that everything we need to follow the commands of discipleship are already available to us, because the “God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens” (Eph1:3). God bless you!

*Fr. Godwin Akpan, S.S.J., Pastor*

“If we cannot penetrate to an understanding of the visible world around us, how can we hope to reach an understanding of the Divinity beyond the grasp of all beyond the grabs of all our senses.”

**Tithes and Offerings for August 28, 2022**  
**\$4,113.00**

### Stewardship Thought

*“Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33*

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God --has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

### Did you know?

#### Tips for talking to your children about school safety

Most children will participate in school safety drills when they head back to the classroom this year, from active shooter drills to weather emergencies. As a parent, you can help your child cope with any anxiety or distress they experience during these drills. Talk to your children about school safety and address any concerns they may have. Remind them that the school and their teachers are working to keep them safe.

For more tips,

visit <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/Pages/Actions-Schools-Are-Taking-to-Make-Themselves-Safer.aspx>.

### Parish Ministry Listening Session

Fr. Godwin Akpan, S.S.J our new pastor, will be holding a Parish Ministry Listening Session for all Ministry and Organization Leaders at Transfiguration on Saturday, September 24, 2022 from 9:00 AM until 12 Noon. You will be contacted by your Ministry Leader. Please plan to attend this important session. Lunch will be provided.

### Mass Intentions for...

#### Sunday, September 4, 2022

8:00 a.m. Intention of Marie C Jean and Stephanie Moore  
10:00 a.m. Intention of all Parishioners

#### Sunday, September 11, 2022

8:00 a.m. Soul of Adele Sanchez  
10:00 a.m. Intention of all Parishioners

### Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Wis 9:13-18b, Ps 90:3-17, Lk 14:25-33
Monday	I Cor 5:1-8, Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday	1 Cor 6:1-11, Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday	1 Cor 7:25-31, Lk 6:20-26
Thursday	Mi 5:1-4a, Mt 1:1-23
Friday	1 Cor 9:16-27, Lk 6:39-42
Saturday	1 Cor 10:14-22, Lk 6:43-49
Sunday	Ex 32:7-14, Ps 51:3-19, Lk 15:1-32

### Religious Education

For students from Kindergarten to High School will begin September 11, 2022. It will include: First Communion, Confirmation, the study of scripture, the study and celebration of Liturgy and the Liturgical seasons. Registration will take place every Sunday in August after the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses outside in the patio. More information will be given at registration.

### Mask Requirement

Fr. Godwin Akpan, S.S.J our new pastor, will abide by the Los Angeles County Health Department and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Guidelines regarding the use of face masks at public gatherings. Therefore, the use of masks at Transfiguration will be on individual's discretion. For additional information about County Guidelines please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/guidances.htm>

### Thank you

The beautiful flowers on the altar this week were donated by **Marie C Jean**. If you would like to donate flowers, please call the rectory for more details.

### Pray for the Sick

Deacon Emile Adams, Jon Adams, Glenda Alexander, Brian Argusta, Baby Caroline, Eileen Bacon, Gerald Bill, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Jo Ann Collins, Cynthia Cyrus, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Bobby Eason, Mark Eason, Cynthia Fortier, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Jennifer Hallman, Sister Marianna Halsmer, Eddie Hiley, Barbara J. Jones, Marjorie Jones, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Christian Latigue, Mercedes LeBlanc, Vydred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Carol Powell, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Cynthia Richardson, Kayla Samuel, Vanessa Samuels, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Charlize Taylor, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Shane Walters, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, Alice Williams, and Peggy Wilson.