

## **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: 27 June, 2010**

**"No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks at what is left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."**

Wow! Those are some pretty harsh words that we hear coming from the lips of our Lord in today's Gospel. And whenever we hear Jesus speaking to us with such forceful language and in such a dramatic manner, we should realize that he's attempting to make a very important point. Undoubtedly, he wants to shock us a little so that we will pay attention and listen to whatever is coming next. Well, if you are like me, I can assure him that he's got my attention as I begin to attempt and interpret his warning to me.

I begin to wonder if God is saying that I need to give up my family and friends, or does following him preclude me having those important relationships in my life. Well, like most things Catholic, the answer is both yes and no. Now you might say, what's this yes & no, that's confusing the issue. Well let's take married life as an example and I'll attempt to flesh out what I mean.

Remember those times during your marriage preparation sessions when you may have said that your families weren't going to be a problem in your marriage. Well, most new couples haven't given much thought to that question and that points toward their naiveté. They are just assuming that everything will work out equitably. But in reality, the husband or wife is often forced to choose between his or her spouse and his or her family and maybe even friends. Now, that's what a married person is signing on for when they make those wedding promises before God and community. That's the type of commitment that it's going to take in order to make the marriage work.

But in reality, even the most dedicated, loving and faithful of partners will at times fail--- fail to understand, fail to show compassion, fail to encourage or in essence fail to love. And I don't have to tell you how painful that can be. It hurts and wounds to such a degree that sometimes it's hard to forgive or to even ask for forgiveness.

But thankfully, we do have someone on who we can count in such situations. Oh, we might get angry for allowing ourselves to go down paths we weren't sure of, but we can rest assured that we will remain loved because God is our surety. He will never betray us, no matter how many times we betray him. Our Lord will never go back on his promise, or fail to walk beside us on our journey. He is there to help us carry our crosses and comfort us in our sorrows. God will never, ever stop loving us.

And that should be of great consolation to us, because we need people in our lives that we can count on, as well as, our God. We will need to be able to turn to one another for support. We will need people who we can say anything to, confide in and trust. God doesn't ask that we give these people up. In fact, he often comes to us through them. But, if we're ever in a position in which what God is asking of us is in conflict with what someone else is asking of us, choose God. You won't be disappointed.