

**The Cost of Discipleship
(13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)**

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16—Elisha and the Woman’s Son

1. Elisha the prophet: apparently itinerant
2. The Shunammite Woman: shows hospitality to Elisha is a “holy man of God”
3. The Woman’s Reward: Elisha promises her “a son”; she has a child

Psalm 89—Forever I will Sing the Goodness of the Lord

1. I will sing of your “steadfast love” (v. 1-2)
2. The Lord is “our shield” (v. 18)

Romans 6:3-4, 8-11—Buried with Christ in Baptism

1. Buried “by baptism” into Christ’s death (6:4)
2. “We have died with Christ” → “We shall also live with him” (6:8)

Matthew 10:37-42—The Cost of Discipleship

1. Context: the “Mission Discourse” to Jesus’ Disciples (Matt 10:1-42)
 - a. Jesus calls his “twelve disciples” (Matt 10:1-4)
 - b. “These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them...” (Matt 10:5)
2. The Love Demanded by Jesus:
 - a. Whoever “loves father or mother more than me” → “is not worthy of me”

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you. (Exodus 20:12)
 - b. Whoever “loves sons or daughter more than me” → “is not worthy of me”

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; ⁵ and *you shall love the Lord your God* with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)
3. The Sacrifice Demands by Jesus:
 - a. Whoever “does not take his cross and follow me” → “is not worthy of me”
 - b. Whoever “finds his life” → “will lose it”
 - c. Whoever “loses his life for my sake” → “will find it”
4. The Rewards of Hospitality to Jesus’ Disciples:
 - a. Whoever “receives you [disciples]” → “receives me”
 - b. Whoever “receives me” → “receives him who sent me”
 - c. Whoever “receives a prophet” or “a righteous man” → receives a “reward”
 - d. Whoever “gives a cup of cold water” to a “disciple” → receives a “reward”

Family Ties and the Christian Vocation

1. “Family ties” are “important but not absolute” (CCC 2232)
2. The “first vocation” of the Christian: is to “follow Jesus” (CCC 2232, citing Matt 10:37).

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

1. What was your first reaction to Jesus’ words about the demands of discipleship? Does it shock you that Jesus demands you love him more than your mother, father, wife, or children? What are some practical ways to live this radical love each day?

2. What does Jesus mean when he calls us to “lose” our “lives” in order to “find” them? Not all of us are called to actual martyrdom, so how can we live this sacrificial love in daily life?

3. What do you think about Jesus’ demands for some of his disciples to completely abandon their family ties to come and follow him? What are the implications of this for our understanding of those who have vocations to the priesthood or religious life?

For Further Study

1. CCC 2232-33: The Family and The Kingdom of God.
2. CCC 858-60: The Mission of the Apostles continues the mission of Jesus.
3. CCC 618: We participate in the Cross of Jesus Christ.