

Does Jesus Teach Hate? (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C)

Wisdom 9:13-18—Things on Earth and Things in Heaven

1. Earthly Matters: “we can hardly guess at what is on earth” (9:16)
2. Heavenly Matters: “who has traced out what is in the heavens?” (9:16)

Psalm 90—Teach Us to Number our Days

1. Wisdom: “teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom” (v. 12)

Philemon 9-10, 12-17—From Slave to Brother

1. Slave vs. Brother: both “in the flesh” (freedom) and “in the Lord” (spiritual) (v. 16)

Luke 14:25-33—The Cost of Discipleship

1. Conditions of Being a “Disciple” or “Student (Greek *mathētēs*) (14:26-27)
 - a. “Hate”: if anyone does not “hate” (Greek *miseō*)
 - b. Others: “father,” “mother,” “wife,” “children,” “brothers and sisters”
 - c. Self: “even his own life” or “soul” (Greek *psychē*)
2. Does Jesus Contradict Himself?
 - a. “Love” your “enemies” (Luke 7:27)
 - b. “Hate” your family? (Luke 14:26-27)
3. Hyperbole: *exaggeration* in order to make a point (cf. Mark 9:45-47)
4. Hatred: “Hate” (Greek *miseō*) (Luke 14:26)
 - a. Def. #1: to wish evil; opposite of “love” (Greek *agapaō*) (Matt 5:43)
 - b. Def. #2: to *prefer* one person over another (Gen 29:30-31)

So Jacob... *loved* Rachel *more than* Leah, and served Laban for another seven years. When the LORD saw that Leah was *hated*, he opened her womb... (Gen 29:30-31 LXX)

6. Explanation: when Jesus demands that his disciples “hate” (Greek *miseō*), he uses
 - a. Hyperbole: to emphasize that if they love anyone *more than him*
 - b. Discipleship: then they “cannot” be his “disciple” (Luke 14:26; cf. Matt 10:37)
7. How Can Jesus Demand such Absolute Love? Only *God* can! (cf. Deut 6:4-6)
8. The Cost of Discipleship: Two Analogies
 - a. Building a Tower: “count the cost” before laying the “foundation” (14:28-30)
 - b. Going to War: king “takes counsel” whether he can win (14:31-42)
 - c. Renunciation: “renounce” or “give up” (Greek *apotassō*) all

The Catechism on the Cost of Discipleship

Jesus enjoins his disciples *to prefer him to everything and everyone*, and bids them “renounce all that [they have]” for his sake and that of the Gospel [Luke 14:33]. Shortly

The Mass Readings Explained

before his passion he gave them the example of the poor widow of Jerusalem who, out of her poverty, gave all that she had to live on. The precept of *detachment from riches* is obligatory for entrance into the Kingdom of heaven. (CCC 2544)

Christ is the center of all Christian life. The bond with him takes precedence over all other bonds, familial or social. From the very beginning of the Church there have been men and women who have renounced the great good of marriage to follow the Lamb wherever he goes, to be intent on the things of the Lord, to seek to please him, and to go out to meet the Bridegroom who is coming. *Christ himself has invited certain persons to follow him in this way of life, of which he remains the model.* (CCC 1618)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C)

1. According to Psalm 90, how does “numbering our days” give us a “heart of wisdom”?

2. Does Jesus contradict himself when he teaches his disciples to “love” their “enemies” but “hate” their “families” and “themselves”?

3. How does *the Catechism of the Catholic Church* interpret Jesus’ teaching on the cost of discipleship?

For Further Study

1. Pablo Gadenz. *The Gospel of Luke*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018. Pp. 268-70