



The Shepherd's Voice

September 3, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

“Bearing Our Cross”

“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”—Jesus.

Luke 14: 27.

In our passage for Sunday (Luke 14: 25-32) there is much hyperbole that stands out with shocking emphasis. “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children...he cannot be My disciple.”—this is extraordinary language. But, Jesus spoke this to get our attention. He doesn't want us to ‘hate’...He wants us to clearly love Him above all other things/people/attachments, etc. that would ever take the place of God and our relationship with Him. He knows people are prone to idolatry. Yet, it's amazingly strong language from Jesus and is meant to really get our attention. Why? Because Jesus expects His disciples to bear the cross that He took on our behalf that made it a gateway to eternal life!

Jesus says, “Come after Me!” The greater part of bearing one's cross is to follow Jesus very closely. Every day we awake, we need to ask the question of ourselves, “How do I follow Jesus today?” If I'm all about constantly serving myself, I'm missing Jesus. “I this”, and “I that”, and “I want my way!” These are the ways of the ‘self’, and lead us away from Jesus. Saying “Jesus, what would You have me do or say or be today?”—This is His way of discipleship. Bearing our cross is not selfishness.

The cross is the cross of Jesus. To say that the cross is some sort of burden you or I have is missing the mark. We need to see the cross as Jesus Himself, for He stretched out His arms of love on the hard wood of the cross.

He embraced His cross in order to take away our sins. He bled and died on that cross in order to put to death that which is the real burden of our lives, our sins. He used that cross as a means of dying to the things of this world and entering into an eternal life of release from the weights and struggles we bear. Our cross is really that which Jesus died to release us from, so our daily focus is to resist the temptation to return to such a sin, any sin, that would put Jesus back on the cross. Do you have one of those tough temptations that seem to follow you wherever you go? Is it connected to the very sin that Jesus forgave you of long ago when you turned your life over to Jesus? Do we really want to go back and plead for His mercy for *that* again? Perhaps an addiction? Or maybe a constant critical spirit, condemning others? What's your cross?

Bearing the cross is bearing the assurance of the forgiveness of Jesus in your heart. We won't do *that* again when we realize the pains He suffered on our behalf. We take up that cross, that opportunity to join Jesus, to be bonded to Him in the fight against being tempted or being self-serving. We need to change “I need” to “He needs me!” This is an opportunity to become one with Christ. We draw nearer to Him when we say “I need you Lord and your victory over my sin by the power of Your cross”...and we sincerely mean it! I need Jesus every day. How about you? Bearing my cross is bearing Jesus within me, to guide and control me.

Lord Jesus, You did so much for me in willingly being nailed to the cross for my sins. I don't ever want You to take the pains of the cross for me again, just because I'm selfish and slip back into old habits or addictions. Please help

me to take up Your cross for me and by it always remember that You spilled Your precious blood on that cross to completely cover my sins. Help me Lord to trust in the victory of Your cross and offer You all my thanks, praise, and obedient choices for saving me. Lord Jesus, I want to bear my cross to

honor and glorify You and thereby live for You. In Your precious Name. Amen.

In Christ's forgiving love,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

September 8, 2013	16 Pentecost		9:00 a.m. Service
First Reader	Deuteronomy 30:15-20		Alex Teixeira
Psalm Reader	Psalm 1		Jane Rost
Second Reader	Philemon 1-20	Second Sunday	Randy Stewart
Intercessors		Combined Service	Frances Slaughter
Lay Euch. Ministers			Frances Slaughter, Paula Sholly
Acolytes			Mitch D (C); Kalani C (T1); Zachary J (T2)
Welcomers			Anna Teixeira, Maureen Green
Ushers			Ted Vallas, Dick Sholly, Jackie Lansing
Vestry Person of Day	Dick Sholly		
Healing Ministers			Jan Simon, Rudy Theobald, Ann & JR Fox
Announcer			Robbin Gates
Counters			Cline Handy & Michael Murphy

Rummage Sale – September 7th

7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Clean out your closets, your garage, your cupboards of all that gently used stuff you haven't seen in a long time and you don't need. Bring it to the church on Sept. 6th between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. so our volunteers can price and organize everything for early the next morning. Proceeds will go to the children's ministries. This is a great opportunity to clean up some of your space and to support one of our most important ministries.

Call the office to volunteer to help!

Sunday, September 8th –spoken service at 7:30 a.m.

Combined service at 9:00 a.m. followed by food & fellowship. Baked Potato & Salad are on the menu. The church will provide the baked potatoes and the salad greens. You bring your favorite baked potato topping and/or something yummy to put in a green salad.

Sunday, September 8th
We celebrate our 2nd anniversary
in this facility.

Sunday School and
Children's Church begin on
Sunday, September 15th
during the 10:15 service.

Soaking Prayer- September 11, 2013

A Time of Liturgical Contemplation – Friday, September 13, 2013

Sunday, September 8th
Membership Sunday
Come to the 9:00 a.m. Second
Sunday Combined Service
and **join in the group picture
in front of the altar.**

Sunday, September 15th
Ministry Fair
Ministry leaders – make a display
for your ministry. We want
everyone to see what great things
are happening at Grace!

Have you registered for the Kingdom Conference yet?

October 11 & 12 at Carlsbad Community Church in Carlsbad

Join your fellow Anglicans in this celebration of Ministries that Work.

Archbishop Robert Duncan will be the main speaker.

This will be his last trip to the Western United States while he is still Archbishop.

There will be lots of interesting and informative sharing sessions.

Register today at www.westernanglicans.org

Sunday at Grace

7:30 a.m. Spoken Service
8:45 a.m. Nursery opens
9:00 a.m. Combined Service
10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Vestry meeting

**We need Cursillo
Candidate Sponsors!
Call the church office
if you need more
information.**

Readings for Sunday

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1:1-20
Luke 14:25-33

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer
(Year C)

This Week at Grace – September 3, 2013 – September 10, 2013

Tues. September 3

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC

Wed. September 4

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist at Grace
9:30 a.m. No Staff Meeting

Thurs. September 5

6:10 a.m. Br. Benno's 5th Thurs. Team
7:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Fri. September 6

Fr. Joe's Day Off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing

Sat. September 7

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Worship Team rehearsal

Sun. September 8 (16th Sunday after Pentecost)

7:30 a.m. Spoken Service
8:45 a.m. Nursery opens
9:00 a.m. – Combined service
10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting

Mon. September 2

Labor Day – Church Office Closed

Tues. September 3

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC

Rector's Bible Study
Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Do you like to sing? Consider joining the choir
or the Praise Team. You will be blessed and
have a good time too!

Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer at Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:
www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Up-coming events

Sep. 7- Rummage Sale at Grace.

Sep. 8 – Membership Sunday –
Combined Service at 9:00 a.m.
Vestry meeting.

Sep. 10 – Colossians Study with Fr. Richard

Sep. 11 – **Soaking Prayer** – 6:30 p.m.

Sep. 13 – A Time of Liturgical Contemplation 7p.m.

Sep. 14 – Prayers & Squares meet at church

Sep. 15 – Ministry Fair at Grace

Sep. 15 – Sunday School & Children's Church begin

Sep. 19- Men's Cursillo begins

Sep. 26 – Women's Cursillo begins

Oct. 11 & 12 Kingdom Conference
at Carlsbad Community Church in
Carlsbad. Archbishop Bob Duncan
will address this diocesan wide
conference.

Please "Like" us on Facebook!

**Start saving your gently used
household goods and clothing
for our big rummage sale on**
September 7, 2013.