

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

June 26, 2022 • 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Luke 9:51-62

What It Takes to Be a Disciple

When Jesus and his disciples are turned away from a Samaritan village, the disciples want to send down fire to punish them. Jesus rebukes them and continues on the journey. As various people approach Jesus asking to be disciples, he points out the difficult choices they will have to make if they want to follow him. “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (v. 62).

Our faith is not just a Sunday endeavor. Being a follower of Jesus is a lifetime, 24/7 commitment. It affects what we say, what we do and how we view the world. Being a Christian is not easy.

Christians don't distinguish between “them” and “us.” They believe that all people are God's children, and are worthy of respect. Christians realize that a person's worth is not determined by how pleasant he or she is or by how much he or she is liked. Christians turn the other cheek. They don't plot revenge. Christians go out of their way to help anyone who crosses their path. They see every living person as their brother or sister. They see all of creation as gift to be appreciated and protected.

The job description can sometimes seem overwhelming. That is why we can take comfort in the way Jesus responded to his disciples when they wanted to destroy the city that refused them hospitality. God is very patient with us.

God is understanding, even when we fail or act most unchristian. God only asks us to make an effort each day, to ask for help when we need it and

to say we are sorry when we mess up. One of the great lessons of being a Christian is accepting the fact that we cannot control everything. We will always need God's grace to strengthen us, heal us and work through us.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Have each member talk about what he or she thinks it means to be a Christian. Is everyone living up to his or her own expectations of what they think being Christian means? What can each person do differently in his or her daily life to be more like Christ?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What is the most difficult part about being a Christian? Why do you think it is difficult? How can you make it easier?