

### **The Radicality of the Kingdom and the Wisdom of the Heart...**

Brothers and sisters... Once again, the Gospel speaks to us about **the radical nature of following Jesus...**

And it puts us face to face with one of the most demanding words of our Lord... **If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, even life itself, cannot be my disciple... Whoever does not give up all that he has cannot be my disciple...** Strong, I know! But...

The point here is... Being a disciple means participating in the life and mission of Jesus... **Life:** communion with Him... **Mission:** to proclaim Him... And this means giving up anything that prevents making Him the center of our lives...

At first, these words may sound harsh... even impossible... but in reality... they are a clear invitation to discover **the radical love of God...**

Jesus is not talking about giving up for its own sake... nor about carrying the cross for the sake of suffering...

He is talking about a path where nothing **no person, no possession, no security can come before Him...** Because only He gives full meaning to everything else...

And, it is important to be very clear... **Jesus does not ask us to hate our family or loved ones...** St Luke uses strong language to highlight the absolute priority of following Christ...

Jesus does not ask us to love our family less... **but to love with a new order... to put Him first...** And when He is at the center... **the family is not lost...** on the contrary... **it is strengthened... purified...** and finds **its deepest meaning...**

In the first reading... the Book of Wisdom reminds us that human thoughts are uncertain... Often we think we have things under control... but they escape our hands...

**Only with the light of the Holy Spirit...** can we discern and make firm decisions...  
**And this is the light we need to understand Jesus...** Following Him is not a loss...  
It is the great gain of life...

These simple examples that Jesus gives... building a tower... facing a battle... Both require **preparation... decision... and courage...**

And this still applies to our lives today... **And I mean everyone!** Not just priests, seminarians, or religious sisters... **Everyone! Tutti! Todos!** From our specific vocation...

My dear brothers and sisters... To follow Jesus we need preparation, decision and courage...

**Preparation:** To know Him more, to pray and to open our hearts to His Word...

**Decision:** To say yes to live as He lived... loving... serving... going beyond a simple rule... Touching the poor... Extending your hand to help others...

**Courage:** To live the mission with faith, even when it is difficult...

**And without the Holy Spirit... this cannot be understood... or accomplished...**

My dear friends... **the Kingdom is not built halfway... it is not fought halfway... Jesus wants true disciples...**

This is not a call **to fear... nor to sadness... but to trust... and freedom...**  
Because when we put Jesus at the center... **everything else finds its place... family... possessions... projects... dreams... Everything!**

My dear friends... Let us ask the Lord for the wisdom of the heart... **to recognize what we need to let go... which crosses we are called to carry...** And how we can live this radicality of the Kingdom... not as a burden... **but as a path of fullness and love...**

**HOMILY SUNDAY XXIII ORDINARY TIME YEAR C**  

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**WHOEVER OF YOU DOES NOT GIVE UP ALL POSSESSIONS CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE**

May each of us... in our family... at work... in our community... ask ourselves: **What keeps me from putting Jesus at the center of my life today? Which cross am I called to carry with love... and trust?**

We do not walk alone... Jesus walks with us... strengthens us... accompanies us... and when we let Him reign in our life... we discover that true freedom... and true joy... begin there...

**Fr. Moices Rafael C.**