



DISCIPLESHIP



This Sunday's Reading 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Luke 14: 25-33

Now great multitudes accompanied him; and he turned and said to them, "If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple . Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, `This man began to build, and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks terms of peace. So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

This is the Gospel of the Lord



Prayer One

The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Reflection:

***This is our first full week of the new
academic year - a great chance to think
about what lies ahead and about what's
going to be important to us this year!***

Here are some things to think about this morning...

[Read slowly, leaving a pause after each one]



How are you feeling at the moment?

What will you need God's help with this year?

What do you want to do differently this year?

Is there anything or anyone you are worried about at the moment?



Final Prayer

Loving Father,

Bless us as we gather together as a community and be with us as we journey through the months ahead.

Bring success to our efforts, bring joy to our relationships and help us to remember each day that you are walking beside us.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

In the name of the Father and of the Son...

Prayer Two

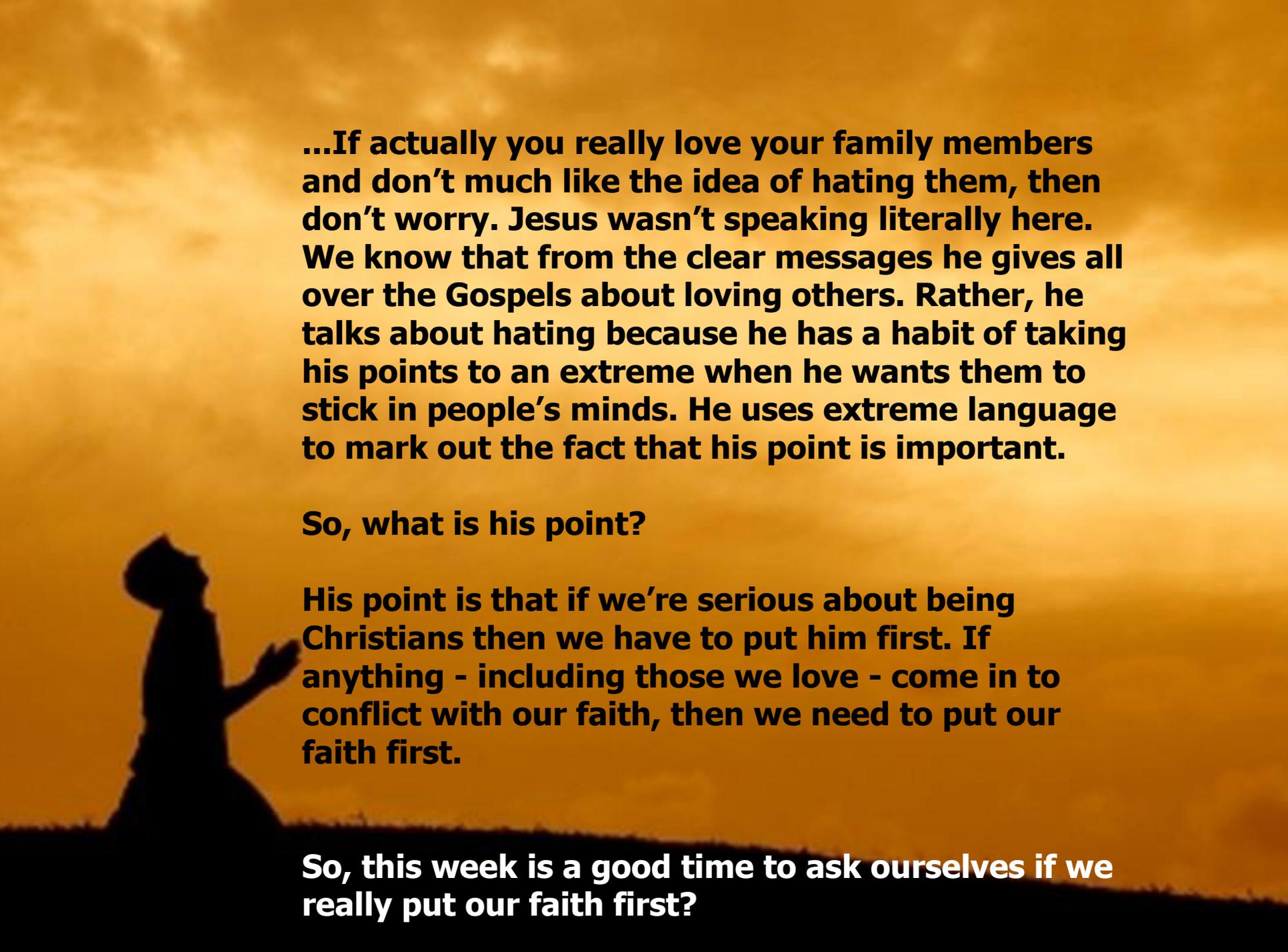
The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Reflection

In this week's Gospel Jesus uses some quite harsh language. He says that anybody who doesn't hate their family members, and even their own lives, isn't really worthy of him!...



A silhouette of a person standing on a dark horizon, looking upwards with their arms slightly outstretched. The background is a bright, orange and yellow sunset sky with soft clouds. The text is overlaid on the sky in a bold, black font.

...If actually you really love your family members and don't much like the idea of hating them, then don't worry. Jesus wasn't speaking literally here. We know that from the clear messages he gives all over the Gospels about loving others. Rather, he talks about hating because he has a habit of taking his points to an extreme when he wants them to stick in people's minds. He uses extreme language to mark out the fact that his point is important.

So, what is his point?

His point is that if we're serious about being Christians then we have to put him first. If anything - including those we love - come in to conflict with our faith, then we need to put our faith first.

So, this week is a good time to ask ourselves if we really put our faith first?

Final Prayer

LOVING FATHER...

Help us to love our lives and help us to love the people we share them with. But, in all things, and in all the decisions we make, help us always to put our faith first.

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
AMEN**



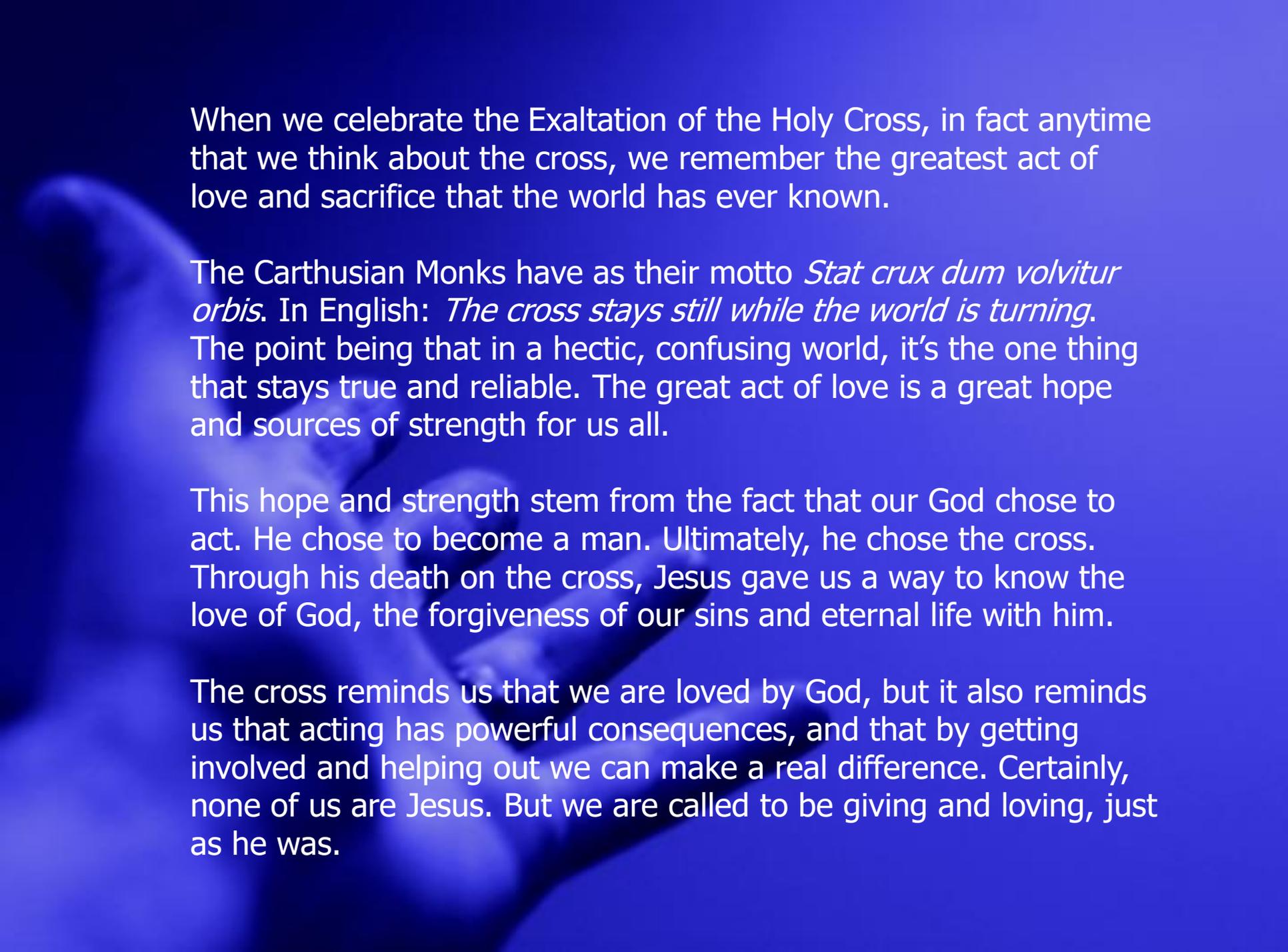
Prayer Three

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection:

*This week we celebrate the feast of The
Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14th Sept)*

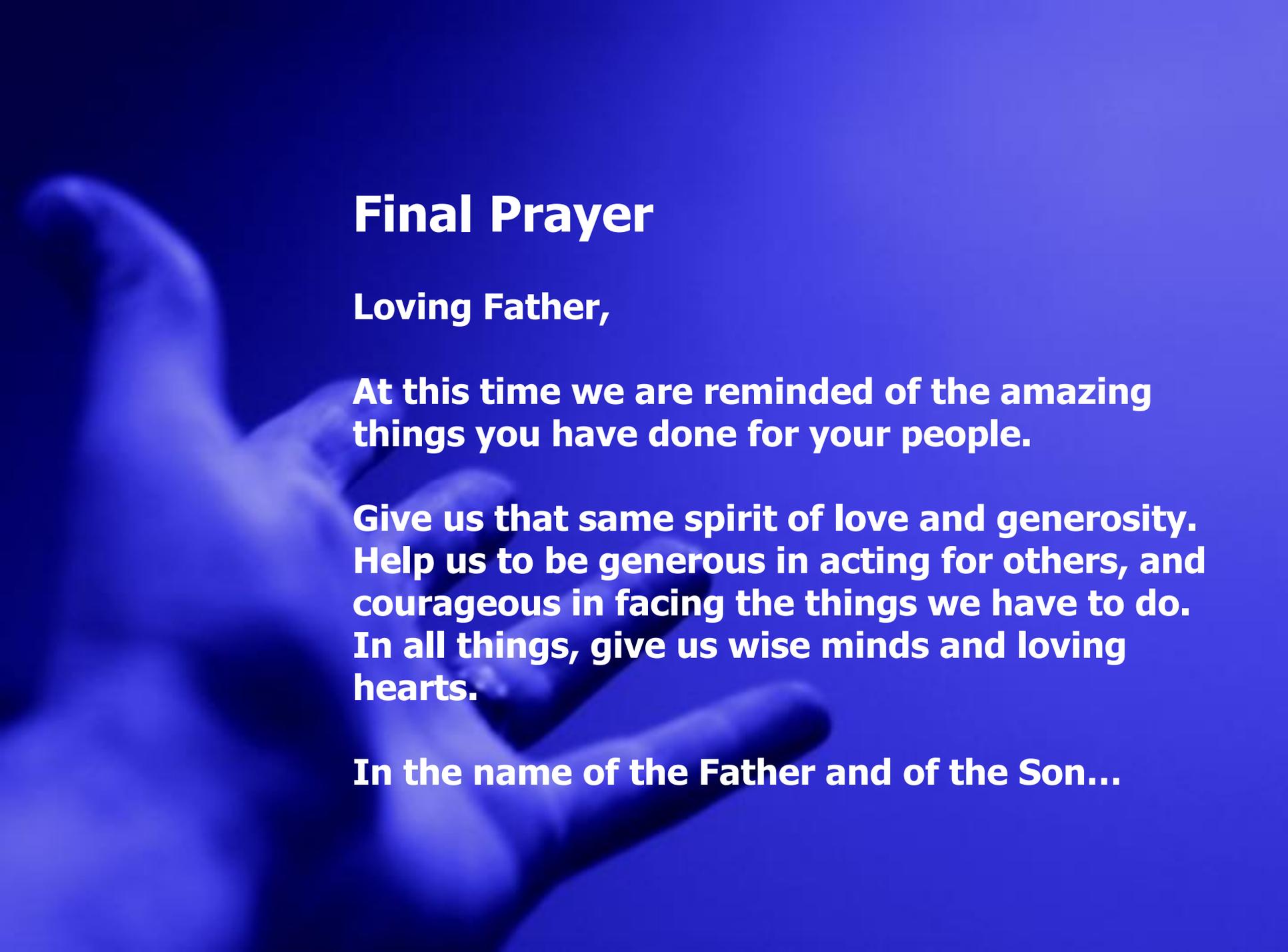


When we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, in fact anytime that we think about the cross, we remember the greatest act of love and sacrifice that the world has ever known.

The Carthusian Monks have as their motto *Stat crux dum volvitur orbis*. In English: *The cross stays still while the world is turning*. The point being that in a hectic, confusing world, it's the one thing that stays true and reliable. The great act of love is a great hope and sources of strength for us all.

This hope and strength stem from the fact that our God chose to act. He chose to become a man. Ultimately, he chose the cross. Through his death on the cross, Jesus gave us a way to know the love of God, the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life with him.

The cross reminds us that we are loved by God, but it also reminds us that acting has powerful consequences, and that by getting involved and helping out we can make a real difference. Certainly, none of us are Jesus. But we are called to be giving and loving, just as he was.



Final Prayer

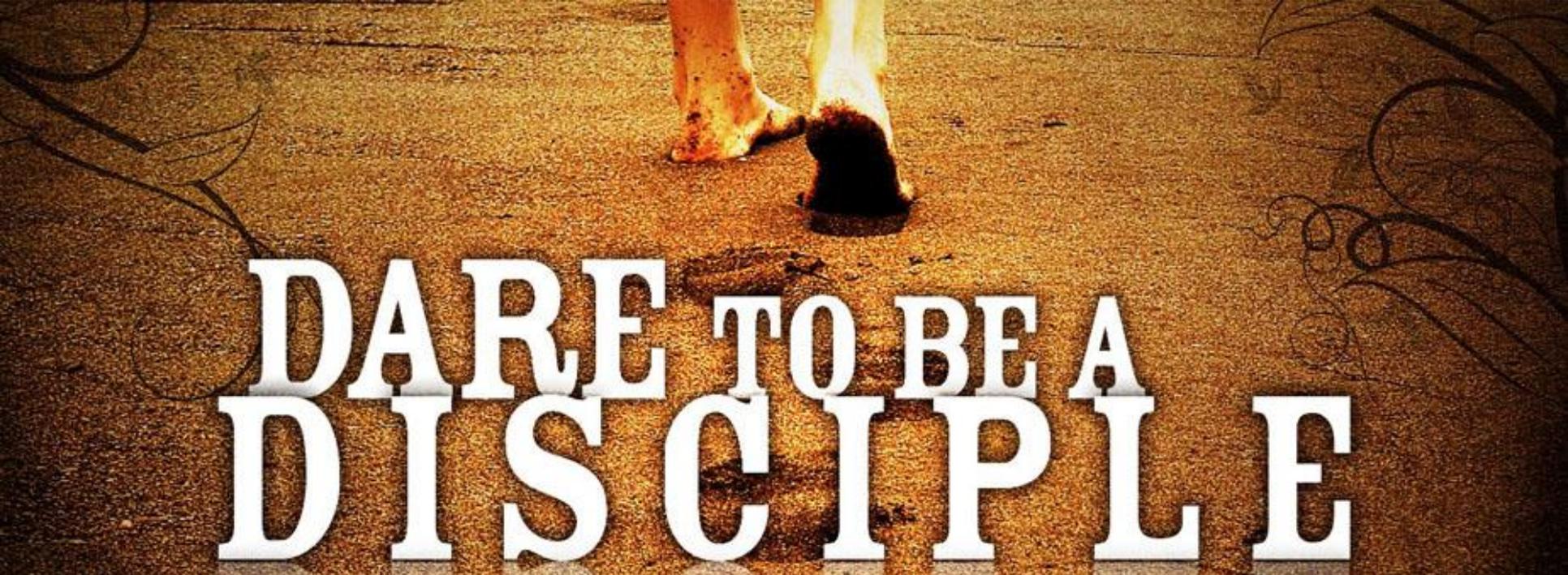
Loving Father,

At this time we are reminded of the amazing things you have done for your people.

Give us that same spirit of love and generosity. Help us to be generous in acting for others, and courageous in facing the things we have to do. In all things, give us wise minds and loving hearts.

In the name of the Father and of the Son...

Final Thought...



DARE TO BE A
DISCIPLE

Next weeks theme: Gratitude