



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 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

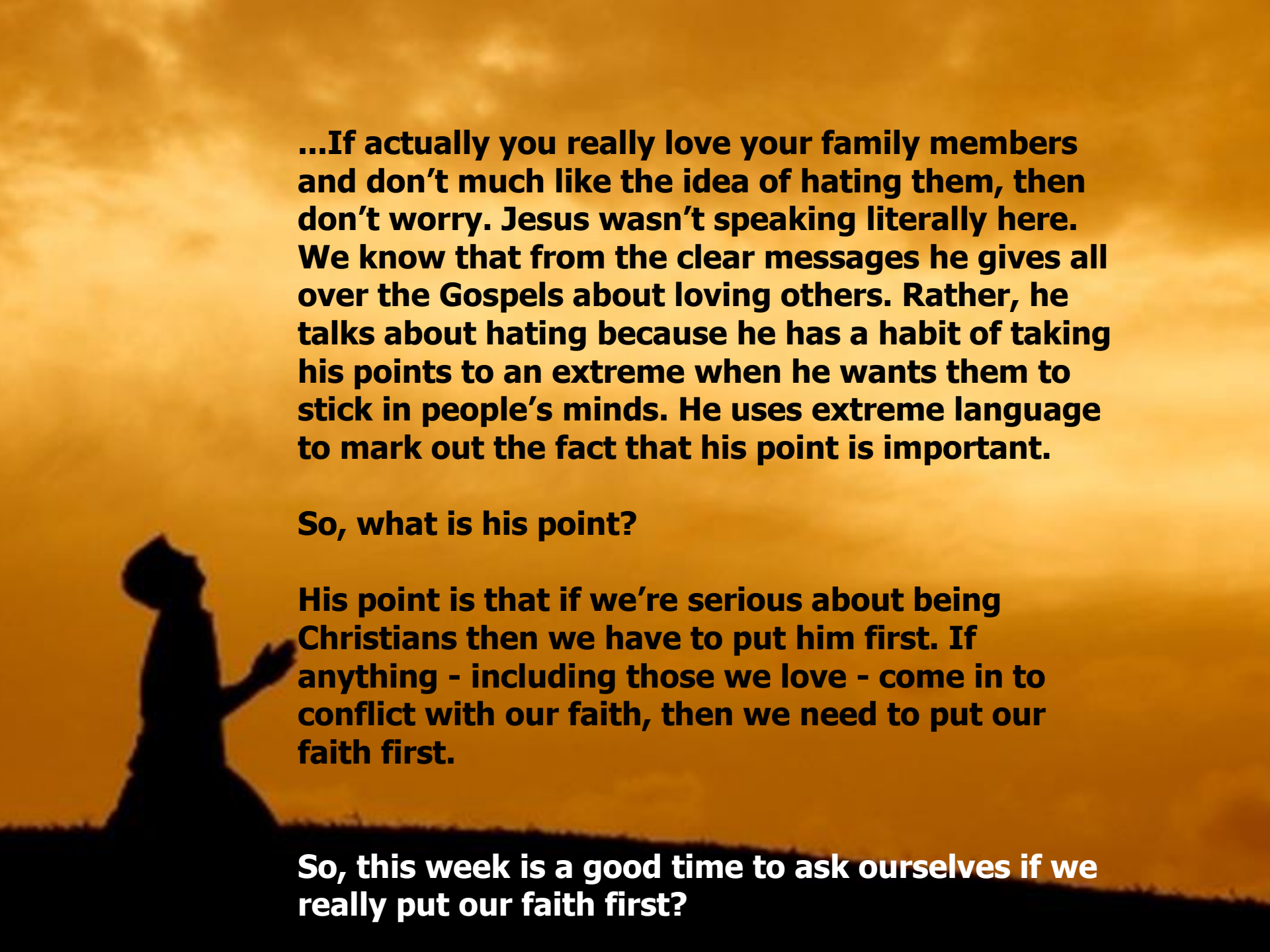
The Sign of the Cross

**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 in prayer, with arms raised and head tilted back, set against a warm, golden sunset sky. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, looking towards the right.

...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 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

We celebrate St Teresa of Calcutta's feast day this week on 5th September. Her life is held up as example of how to follow the teachings of Jesus...

Synopsis of her life:

Born in 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, Mother Teresa taught in India for 17 years before she experienced her 1946 "call within a call" to devote herself to caring for the sick and poor. Her order established a hospice; centres for the blind, aged, and disabled; and a leper colony. In 1979 she received the Nobel Peace Prize for her humanitarian work. She died in September 1997 and was beatified in October 2003. In December 2015, Pope Francis recognized a second miracle attributed to Mother Teresa, clearing the way for her to be canonized as a saint on September 4, 2016.

Click on the picture below for a video clip:





“Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.
Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is a dream, realize it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is a promise, fulfill it.

Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is luck, make it.
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.
Life is life, fight for it.”

— Mother Teresa



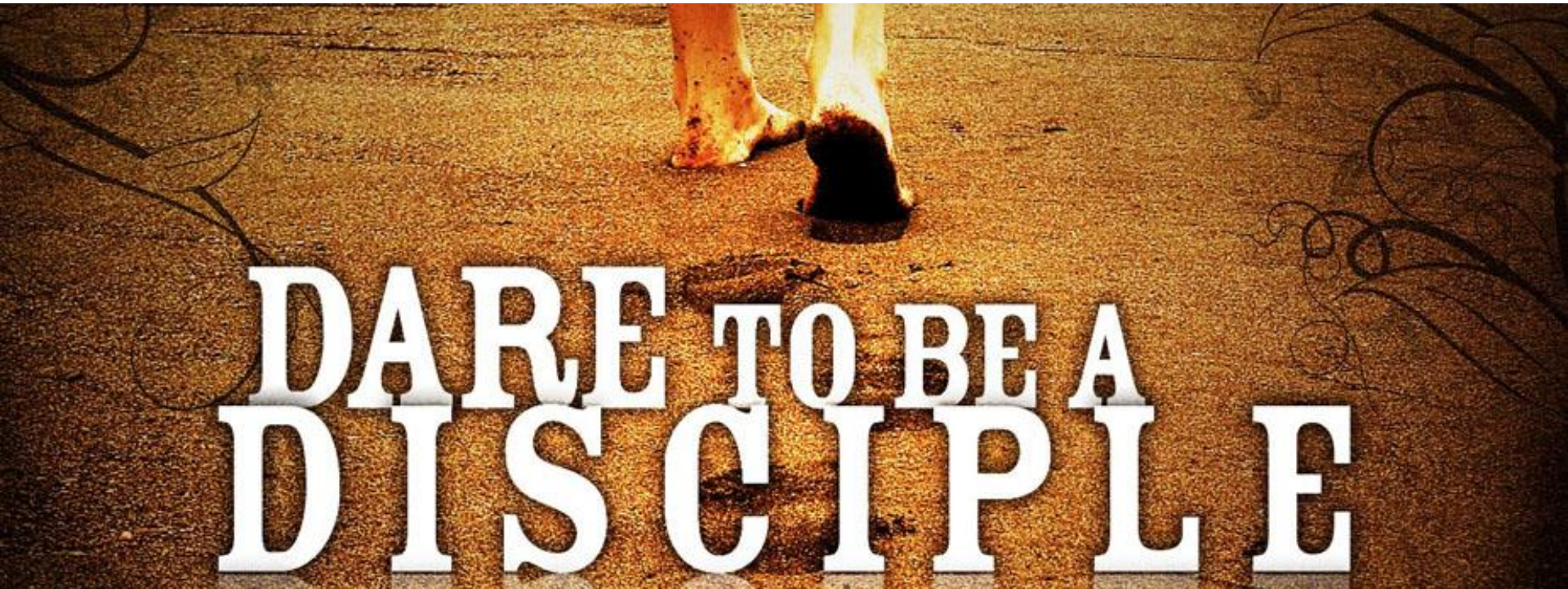
Final Prayer:

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

ALL: Pray for Us

AMEN

Final Thought...



Next weeks theme: Gratitude