



OMINOUS ROAD SIGNS

Sept 8, 2016 Luke 14: 25-33 Wisdom 9: 13-18b

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#### ENTERING THE SCENE:

We live in times where we are facing ever more difficult choices. Choices that will demonstrate if we truly are followers of Jesus. Those choices might put us at odds with our own families and our own culture. For some it might threaten our jobs. We lay awake nights pondering the cost of such choices and wonder if we have what it takes to see the values we profess to completion. Jesus today recognizes the demands his way of being in the world asks of us because he has done his own choosing already. It is on to Jerusalem and whatever comes. Only when we face the costs can it be said that we were truly free to choose.

#### Luke 14:25-33

25 **Large crowds** were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 If anyone comes to

me and does not **hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters**--yes, even his **own life**--he cannot be my **disciple**. 27 And anyone who does not **carry his cross** and follow me cannot be my **disciple**. 28 Suppose one of you wants to **build a tower**. Will he not **first sit down** and **estimate the cost** to see if he **has enough** money to **complete** it? 29 For if he lays the **foundation** and is **not able** to **finish** it, everyone who sees it will **ridicule** him, 30 saying, 'This fellow **began to build** and was **not able** to **finish**.' 31 Or suppose a **king** is about to **go to war** against another **king**. Will he not **first sit down** and **consider** whether he **is able** with **ten thousand** men to **oppose the one coming against him** with **twenty thousand**? 32 If he **is not able**, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will **ask for terms** of peace. 33 In the same way, any of you who does not **give up everything** he has cannot be my **disciple**.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Jesus never hides the cost that following him could/would be. How does that free me to choose to follow him?

**PRAYER:** Relentless guide Jesus, as you press on towards Jerusalem you challenge me to keep on keeping on. You never hide your intentions to confront the falsehoods being peddled as truth, and ask me to join you in doing that in my own world today. Whenever this happens, there will always be those who warn me to cease and desist so as to go along to get along. They might even be in my own home and are rightly concerned for my well-being. Give me the courage to listen to and respond to your truth. Amen.