

What's Happening in Sunday School?

In our Gospel reading, Jesus insists that those who would follow him should hate their own families and even their own lives. In this passage the word hate actually means to love less. We must love everyone and everything, even our own lives, less than we love God. This could come at a great price. If there are people in our lives who hinder our relationship with Christ then we need to reevaluate that relationship and either alter it or end it in order to follow Christ more closely. Throughout history and even still in certain parts of the world there are martyrs who have taken this command to its most extreme outcome literally forfeiting their lives instead of renouncing Christ. They didn't hate their own lives but they loved God more.

In the two illustrations of the man building a tower and a king going to war, Jesus makes it clear that a person must count the cost of being his disciple and determine whether they will be able to persevere in the faith. This isn't so much to discourage people from following him but more to encourage them to enter into discipleship knowing full well what is expected of them. Jesus closes this by saying that if anyone wishes to follow him they must renounce all. Again, this does not mean literally giving up everything, but knowing that one must be willing to give up anything that may stand in the way of their obedience.

Digging Deeper

Is it OK for a child to love Jesus more than their own parents?
How does our ultimate love for Jesus actually allow us to love others more?
Find some passages in scripture that illustrate the fact that Jesus doesn't want us to literally hate our families.
What are some signs that we may love someone or something more than we love Jesus?

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I Love Jesus!

