From The Zucchetto - a.k.a. Zucchini by the PiC



One Wednesday each month I am honored to be the guest Preacher and Celebrant at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Dallas. This month, I did that on Wednesday, November 4, the morning after the election. The Gospel assigned for the day was Luke 14:24-33. You might like to read it before you continue.

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Deacon Kate just completed the reading of the Gospel by saying, "The Gospel of the Lord". And we responded, as we always do, "Thanks be to God!"

Really! I mean, really? Did you just hear what Jesus said? "You can't be my disciple if you don't hate your father, mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters." I wonder why he left husband out. "If you don't take up your cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple." "In fact, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Ouch! That's my response. Not "Thanks be to God" but, "Ouch, ouch and triple ouch!"

But that's what Jesus said so what are we to make of these hard words? There are at least three options. One is to take them literally. If we do that then Jesus really means that hate is a mark of Christian discipleship. While most people will not come to that conclusion, it is important to say why this view is to be rejected given how easy it is for the Church as a whole, and us as individuals, to dismiss Jesus' teachings when his standards contradict ours.

Most simply then, the literal view must be rejected because Jesus can't be equating the life of discipleship with a life of hate because doing so would contradict all of his previous teachings on love. Like his summary of the Law, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength, and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). And, of course, Jesus affirmed the teaching of the Law and the 5th Commandant which says, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you "(Exodus 20:12).

A second option for interpreting Jesus' words is to say they are simply hyperbole - an exaggeration or overstatement. However, Jesus never sugarcoated the cost of discipleship and this is just another example.

The third option has to do with the word hate itself which is sometimes used in the Old Testament to mean "love less" and that seems to be the case here.

So, perhaps we can paraphrase what Jesus is saying this way: "If you want to follow me you must love everything less than me, your family and friends, your priorities, your possessions, your money, your political affiliations, everything you hold dear must come after me. Anything that would compromise your allegiance to me must come after me."

Well, that works for me, but it brings two questions to mind: Can I do that? And: Am I doing that? What about you? Where are we on the road of discipleship?

Jesus gave two examples of the kind of deep discernment needed for faithful disciples. He tells us about two people discerning whether they had the recourses necessary to do the job at hand, the building of a tower, and the winning of a war.

Do we have the spiritual resources to follow Jesus as his disciples? Are we willing and able to persist on our journey with Jesus to the end? But let's not end here. It all sounds so grim and devoid of grace. So, let's import a little grace into the picture.

After Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, we find that all of Jesus' disciples failed to count the cost. Peter betrayed Jesus three times while all the rest fled for their lives. After his resurrection, he forgave them. And remember, also, that Jesus, in his human strength, was not able to carry his cross all the way to the end. After dropping it several times, Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry it for him. That's how it is for us today. We take up our cross. But, in our human frailty, we falter and drop it. We always do

When that happens, Jesus, in his risen power, comes to each of us and asks us if we will allow him to carry our cross for us. Once we give it to him, he will carry it to the end. As he carries it, listen for his voice. And if you listen closely you will hear him say, "I do this for you and for the world because I love you. Now, come, follow me." Simply put, it's God's grace alone that makes our journey as his disciples possible. Thanks be to God!

Now a brief word on the results of the mid-term election.

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well" is a declaration of enduring hope and divine love by Julian of Norwich, affirming the belief that God's divine love has the final word. That conviction sustains our hope as disciples and encourages loving action in all times, places, and circumstances. God is working his purpose out even in the midst of the chaos that surrounds not just our beloved Country but the entire world in which we live, move and have our being. All nations pass away but the Kingdom of God endures forever. And all shall be well.

+Gary

Pray for the Church and the Body of Christ

The Daughters of the King are dedicated to supporting the prayer needs of St. Paul's. They are available in the wes sanctuary every Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship servic prayer. ***Please pray for: Randall Doud & Family, Susan Kaysner, Jerry Davis, Laura & Philip, Juniper (Brenna's daughter), David Gish, Fr. Gordon, his son Tony and his family who care for him.***

EVENTS



Nov 8 - Monthly Birthdays
Nov 13- 6:30-8:00pm Ladies Dinner Get Together in Parish Hall (lasagna, salad, bread)
Nov 21 - 8:00am St. Joseph's Guild
9:00am DOK
Nov 22 - 12:00 - 1:30pm Parish Thanksgiving (watch for a link to signup for side dishes)

Sharing God's Bounty — Donate Digitally!
Open your phone's camera and aim it at this QR code. This will take you directly to our donation page at www.stpaulstx.org/giving where you can donate to our Giving Program.
Thank you for your support!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Twenty Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 8, 2026



The Ten Virgins (Les Dix Vierges) by Eugène Burnand (1850–1921). A Swiss realist painter and illustrator famous for his extensive series of biblical illustrations depicting The Parables.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Jesus Christ, Head of the Church
The Rt. Rev. Robert P. Price, Bishop
The Rev. Gary D. Hill, Priest In Charge
(available on Friday by appointment, 469-849-8317)
The Rev. Gordon Miltenberger, Assisting Priest
Nancy Kilroy, Parish Administrator
(Office Hours: 8am - 2pm; Wed, Thurs. & Fri.)
Christy Wolff, Music Director
Cathy Hargrave, Pianist

Service Times at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

SUNDAY

9:15 am. . . . . . SUNDAY SCHOOL
. . . . . PRAISE TEAM REHERSAL
10:30 am. . . . . . HOLY EUCHARIST
11:45 am. . . . . . Fellowship, Clardy Hall

WEDNESDAY

10:30 am. . . . . . MORNING PRAYER II
6:00 pm. . . . . . .BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY

8:00 p.m. . . . . .COMPLINE SERVICE http://stpaulstx.org select Facebook

FRIDAY

9:00 am. . . . . . CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sunday, October 25th

LEM/ Lay Readers	Debbie Shaffer
Reader	Nancy Hill
Acolyte	Matt Wolff
Thurifer	Laurel Pence
Vestry Person of the Day:	Matt Wolff, Elizabeth Porter
Intercessory Prayer:	Dana Medford
Tech Team:	Studio Director-Jennifer Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce; Audio-Jeff Faunce; Cameras-Jacob Faunce; Social Media- Georgianna Harrison
Altar Guild:	Jennifer Faunce, Elena Mathews, Laurel Pence, Nancy Wyant, Georgianna Harrison

Hymns and Songs for the Day

Procession:	The Lord Will Come	H462
Gospel:	Ancient Words	A3-14
Censing of the Altar:	Great is Thy Faithfulness	A3-50
Communion:	Be Unto Your Name	A3-20
	Lord, Be Glorified	A3-51
Closing Hymn:	Jesus Came, Adored by Angels	H454



Today's Stewardship Pearl

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Galatians 6:7-8

THE COLLECT

O ve us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Eucharist

First Lesson - Amos 5:18-24

Reader: A reading from Amos

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:
Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

***Reader*:** The Word of the Lord.
***People*:** Thanks be to God.

Psalm 70

Read responsively by whole verse

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O Lord, make haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.
4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the Lord!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.
6 You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O Lord, do not tarry.

Sung By All

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Second Lesson - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

Reader: A reading from 1 Thessalonians

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Hymn
The Gospel hymn will be announced

The Gospel - Matthew 25:1-13

***Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**
***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

***Celebrant*:** The Gospel of the Lord.
***People*:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.