

In today's Gospel, we hear "good news." It isn't easy. In fact, it is quite difficult. Jesus speaks of the cross that results from commitment to Him and His way. It is the cross of suffering that comes from being a disciple. All of the Apostles, Jesus' closest followers, were martyrs, with the exception of John, the beloved disciple. They paid the ultimate price, the sacrificing of their lives, because they were committed to Jesus and His way.

Each week we come together to publicly profess our faith as disciples of Our Lord. Has our week involved suffering that flowed from our commitment to Christ and His way?

Being honest which led to hurt, alienation or misunderstanding in a relationship. Expressing outrage upon hearing racist, sexist or blasphemous remarks and being ridiculed. Reaching out in kindness to someone who has been judged by others as "unacceptable" or "no good" and being teased.

Some other examples of being a committed disciple that include suffering could be:

Giving our word to do something and keeping our word at great inconvenience and sacrifice.

Choosing to come to Church weekly and being criticized. Deciding to forgive someone and being labeled as "soft" and "wimpy."

To be committed to Christ and be a disciple is to choose the way of the cross. There's no escaping this fact. However, the reward is great, as Jesus proclaims in the Gospel. We are promised the gift of eternal life.

My brothers and sisters, as we carry our cross this week, let's support one another as disciples. It'll lighten one another's burden.....and we'll be grateful we did!