

How do we respond to these enticements? “Set up an account at our bank and you’ll receive a microwave FREE.” “Buy this carpet. No down payment. No interest. You don’t need to begin payment until Jan 2013. And we’ll pay your state tax.” “Join now and we’ll give you a cell phone with 20,000 free minutes. Invite a friend to join and we’ll give you a DVD player.”

These are all come-ons. They are meant to get our attention and motivate us to purchase the item. We see and hear these kinds of offers in advertizing all of the time. Sometimes the offer is a real bargain and opportunity for us. Other times we aren’t interested a bit.

What about today’s Gospel? Do we want to sign on with Jesus? Here’s the deal: Leave aside our family, take up our cross, give up all of our possessions. If we do that, the prize is: being a disciple of Jesus. Are we ready to step forward and join?

Jesus shocks us through the manner of his speech. He certainly gets our attention. Jesus wants us to understand what we are deciding and signing on for when we follow him. It isn’t easy. There’s a price to pay. Being a disciple is difficult, but not impossible. We have to be single-minded. Jesus is to come first. He is to be our #1 priority. Family relationships, life itself, difficulties, and possessions cannot get in the way. They are to take a back seat to Him.

What is the pay off when we follow Jesus? We gain a family of sisters and brothers who are disciples with us. We gain hope and new life through carrying our cross. And ultimately, we receive the gift of eternal life.

So, choosing to follow Jesus has great value. Ready to sign on?