

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*



September 4, 2016

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 1 (3)

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33



Making Choices. Object: A soccer ball and piano music.

A soccer ball and a music book -- two very different things that play an important part in a story about Katy, a girl about the age of some of you. Katy faced a very difficult decision. Many of her friends had signed up to play soccer. Katy liked to play soccer too, and she wanted to be with her friends, but she also liked to play the piano and had been taking piano lessons for a couple of years. Soccer practice was at the same time as her piano lesson and playing soccer would take away from the time she needed to practice the piano. There was no way she could do both.

What should she do? Should she quit piano and play soccer with her friends, or should she finish what she had started and continue with her piano lessons? Finally, Katy came up with an idea. She sat down with a sheet of paper and drew a line down the center of the page. At the top of the page on one side of the line she wrote, "Piano." On the other side of the line she wrote, "Soccer." Below the word soccer, she wrote all of the advantages of playing soccer with her friends. Below the word piano, she wrote all of the advantages of being able to play the piano. After she had considered all of the advantages and disadvantages of each choice, Katy made her decision. She decided to continue her piano lessons. After all, she could still see her friends at school, and playing the piano was something that she would enjoy for the rest of her life.

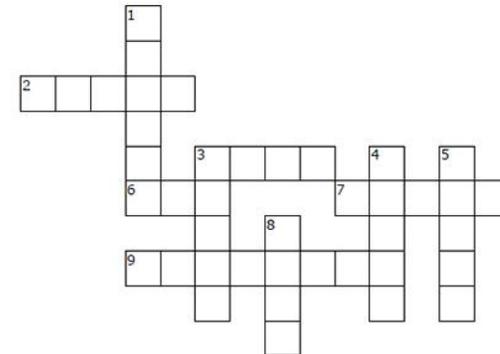
We all face important decisions in life. The most important decision we face is whether we will follow Jesus or not. Perhaps you might say, "Oh that is an easy decision. Of course I will follow Jesus," but Jesus warned that it isn't always easy to follow him. He said that we should sit down and count the cost. Will we choose to follow him if it means giving up friends who are making bad choices? Will we choose to follow him if it means moving to a far away place and leaving our family behind? Will we choose to follow him if it means we will never live in a big house or drive a fancy car?

Jesus said, "Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Where did Jesus carry his cross? He carried it to Calvary. It was on that cross that Jesus gave his life so that you and I could have everlasting life. When we choose to carry our cross, it means that we are willing to give up everything to follow Jesus. It is a choice we have to make.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Let your face shine up on your servant, and teach me your statutes. Alleluia (Ps. 119:135)

Dear Jesus, we thank you for being willing to carry your cross to Calvary. Help us to make the choice to take our cross and follow you. Amen. - Used by permission, sermons4kids

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. To form something by combining materials or parts; to construct
- 3. The amount paid for a something; the price
- 6. Fighting between two or more countries
- 7. Coins or currency used to buy things
- 9. A follower of Jesus

DOWN

- 1. To take someone as a model; to imitate
- 3. A wooden structure consisting of an upright with a horizontal beam
- 4. A very tall, narrow building, or part of a building
- 5. The opposite of war
- 8. A male ruler in some countries

cost	king	tower	cross	money
follow	war	peace	disciple	build

CROSS CRAFT: Have the child tightly wrap colorful yarn around two craft sticks that are glued together in the shape of a cross. Glue the end of the yarn so it will stay in place.

CROSS NECKLACE: Let the child decorate a piece of heavy cardboard/poster board cut in the shape of a small cross. Put yarn through a punched hole so that the child can wear it around their neck.

Carry the cross and follow me.
Luke 14:27, NRSV

I WILL FOLLOW JESUS, GOD'S SON.



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