

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

September 3, 2017

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalms 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28



It Isn't Easy. *Objects: A T-shirt or cap supporting a local school.*

This is my favorite shirt — it represents the school where my children attend. I like to wear this shirt to show my children that I am proud of them and support them in everything they do. I want to do everything possible to be a part of my children's school activities.

Now, it isn't always easy to do all of these things. Sometimes, I may have to make a difficult choice between doing something I really want to do and attending a function that is important to my children at their school. Commitment often requires sacrifice.

That is the lesson that Jesus was explaining to his disciples in our Bible lesson today. He told them that he was going to have to go to Jerusalem where he would be persecuted at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day he would be raised up alive.

Simon Peter protested! "No! That can never be!" But Jesus stood firm. "Get behind me, Satan! You are seeing things from a human point of view, not from God's."

Then Jesus went on to tell his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

God sent his Son that the world might be saved, but it was not easy. Salvation came through the death of Christ on the cross. Jesus has called us to take up our cross and follow him. He never promised that it would be easy, but it will be worth it. There is no greater joy than following Jesus.

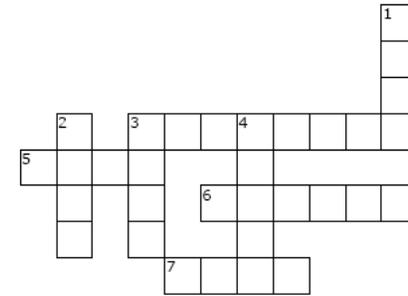
Let's ask God to help us to be faithful followers of Jesus.

Father, we thank you for sending your Son. It is our desire to take up our cross and follow him every day. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which God had called us. Alleluia. (Eph. 1:17, 18)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3. One who believes in Christ and follows his teachings
- 5. The period between birth and death
- 6. To accept the leadership of someone
- 7. To no longer have something because it has been taken away from you or misplaced

DOWN

- 1. To keep something from harm or loss
- 2. To discover something unexpectedly or as a result of a search
- 3. To refuse to allow yourself to have something you want
- 4. The object upon which Jesus was crucified

FIND	LIFE	DISCIPLE	FOLLOW
DENY	CROSS	SAVE	LOSE

CROSS NECKLACE: Give the child a cross, cut out of card stock. Punch a hole at the top and run a piece of plastic string or yarn through it to make a necklace. The child can color and decorate their necklace with mini stickers to personalize it. The child can wear the necklace to remind them of today's lesson and to share the meaning of the CROSS with others.



I WILL FOLLOW JESUS, OUR LEADER.

