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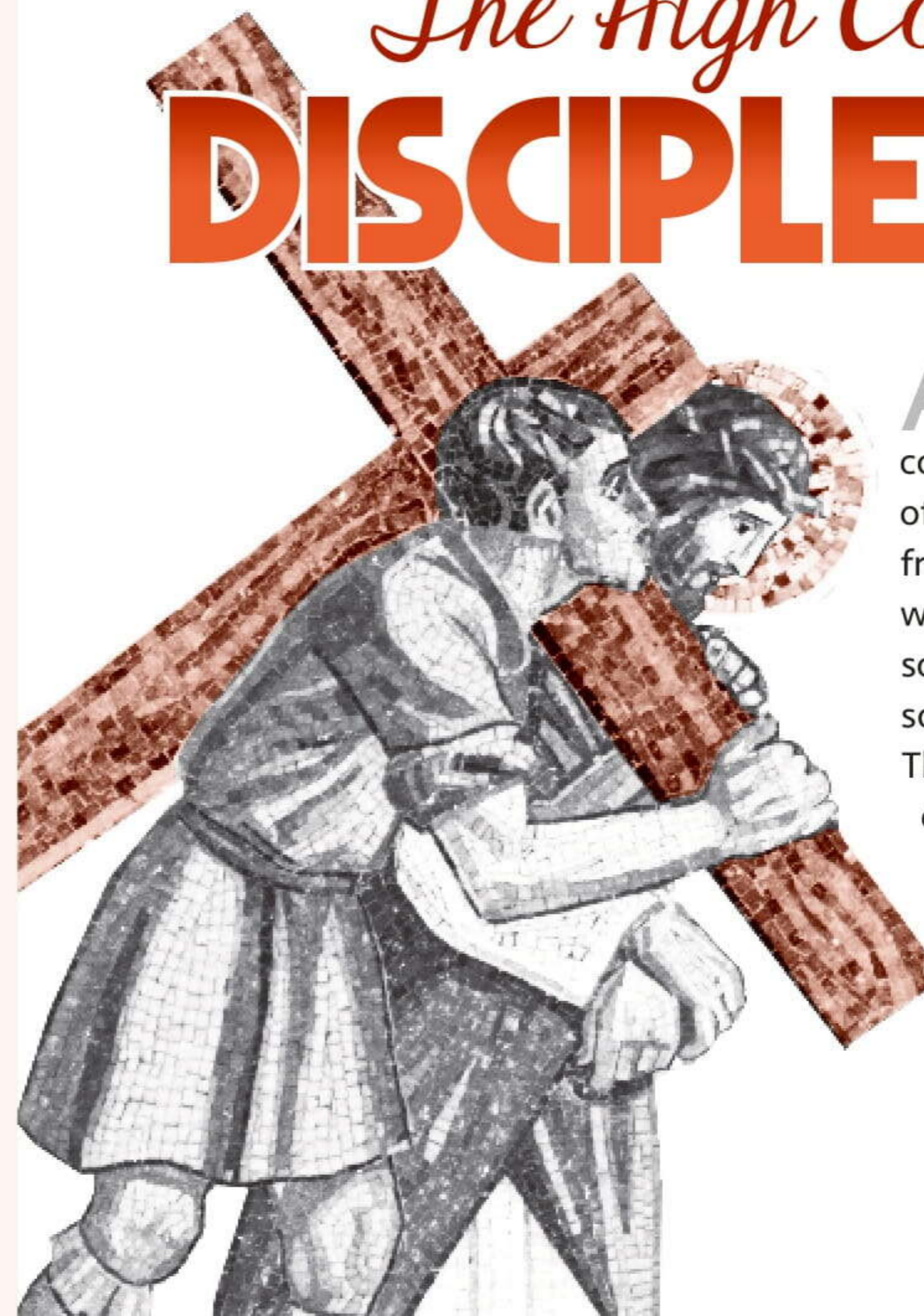
NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

23rd Sunday Of Ordinary Time

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

MONTHLY FOCUS: MALAYSIA DAY (16TH SEPTEMBER)

The High Cost of DISCIPLESHIP



As we walk through life we are confronted with many offers. Many get offers from a marketplace where you could buy something and get something else for free. There are short-cuts and cheap sale offers in life to choose from - everywhere.

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

No one who does not carry his cross and come after me can be my disciple.

(Luke 14:27)

So too with certain teachers and modern-day 'gurus' of the law, who can offer shortcuts to life and seemingly even to eternal life. Contrast this to what Jesus is saying, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple". This is stark language that Jesus uses. There seems to be a contrast that Jesus demands, **there are simply no short cuts.**

Jesus gives us practical examples of counting the costs before we embark on any activity. He uses an example of constructing a tower, or going to war. We have to strategize and count the cost. Similarly, there is also a cost of discipleship that we need to plan for. This involves carrying our cross and it can at times get heavy. Dangers and temptations from the voices that shout 'cheap sale' beckon at every twist and turn. That's why the need to **plan & strategize, to discern & decide.** Our role is to count the cost by weighing the decisions we make daily to choose the right paths, even though the voices come from people closest and dearest to us. These can be hard decisions but this is the cost of discipleship.

The clear narrative from our Lord is not to shut the doors to the world around us completely but to choose between what leads us closer to Him and what doesn't. Jesus says, "anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple". Jesus gave all of Himself for each and every one of us. **He chose selflessness over selfishness, He chose wisdom over foolishness, He chose love over hate.** This is the cost of the cross and discipleship. We too must choose wisely; the weight of our crosses may even be heavy but He knows how to help us. Trust and believe that The Spirit of God, present in our lives, helps us discern between what the world tells us and what The Word asks of us as a cost to discipleship. ✦

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Wisdom 9:13-18;

Psalms 89: 3-6,
12-14, 17;

Philemon 9-10, 12-17;

Luke 14: 25-33.