

June 15, 2008  
Sunday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Exodus 19:2-6a  
Psalms 100:1-2, 3, 5  
Romans 5:6-11  
Matthew 9:36—10:8

*Jesus sent out these twelve....*

*As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."*

I am aware of how often I refer to the cost of discipleship, and here, Jesus asks us to forget the cost, immerse our self in a life of service without thought to cost. He instructs us to bring the kingdom of God to fulfillment through our acts of mercy, compassion, justice, and forgiveness.

When I give only from what I have left over,  
I count the cost.  
Help me to give without counting the cost.

When I hesitate to speak up about injustice,  
I count the cost.  
Help me to give without counting the cost.

When I refuse to forgive a wrong that deeply wounds me,  
I count the cost.  
Help me to give without counting the cost.

When I am too busy to respond to the needs of a friend,  
I count the cost.  
Help me to give without counting the cost.

When I fail to stand up for a friend, who is being criticized in public,  
I count the cost.  
Help me to give without counting the cost.

Help me to see the many ways I count the cost. Free me of this affliction.

Consider the ways you count the cost today.  
Make one small change.