

August 31, 2008
Sunday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

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

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

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ¶For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

The way we understand life is so incongruent with the way Jesus calls us to live. In fact I am not sure that we even get the idea of salvation right. What does it mean to take up my cross and to lose my life? I have sought the answer in theology books, in the lives of the saints, and in the writings of the popes and religious leaders. None of them really helped much. Prayer is what opened my heart to understand what it means to surrender my life. Prayer is what took me to the real questions of faith. Prayer has taught me that it simply means that I must let go of my way, that I cannot control life according to my design. Prayer has taught me to put my trust in a God who loves us unconditionally rather than in the way of the world. I can see the rewards of the world. I cannot see the rewards of a life lived in faith. Yet, prayer gives me a taste of the freedom of the life Jesus holds up for us, the life God desires for us. I believe that it is all a choice. It is a choice to pray. It is a choice to trust. It is a choice to let go and surrender our lives to God. Life with God is a choice and it comes with costs. Is it worth it to us to deal with the losses, the pain, the struggle of surrendering pride, position, status, and a life of comfort in order to be a disciple?

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried."

GK Chesterton

Where do you fail to let go of what is comfortable and familiar to be a real disciple of Jesus?