

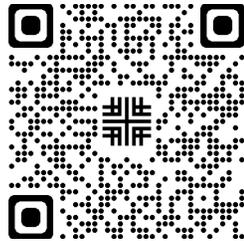
SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

HATE & HYPERBOLE

LUKE 14:25-33, 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

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FALL SERIES: "2 Corinthians, The Last Half" and "Hearing God"

FIRST LOOK

Just when Jesus seems all about healings and invitations to dinner, he stuns with words that shock in their directness. -R. P. Byars

- Three times in the passage Jesus says that without definite decision a person cannot be his disciple.

Even if we soften his word, "hate", Jesus still leaves us with his requirement that we make family ties and normal self-preservation subordinate to following him. -Charles Raynal

THROUGH THE TEXT

²⁵ Now large crowds were accompanying Jesus, and turning to them he said, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

...In Jewish traditions, “hate” is used regularly of the animosity between actual enemies, to be sure. But it is also used in binary wisdom aphorisms employing “love” and “hate” as paradigmatic responses of discernment: the wicked are said to hate discipline, justice, and knowledge, while the righteous hate wickedness, falsehood, and gossip (for example, Psalms 45:7; 50:17; 97:10; 119:163; Proverbs 1:29; Sirach 19:6).

-Carolyn J. Sharp, Professor of Hebrew Scriptures, Yale Divinity School

- Could it be that our relationships are stronger when our shared or not shared commitment to Jesus allows us to love and yet not get our sole identity from the love of the other?

²⁷ Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't sit down first and compute the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish the tower, all who see it will begin to make fun of him. ³⁰ They will say, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish!' ³¹ Or what king, going out to confront another king in battle, will not sit down first and determine whether he is able with 10,000 to oppose the one coming against him with 20,000? ³² If he cannot succeed, he will send a representative while the other is still a long way off and ask for terms of peace. building a tower and undertaking a military campaign.

THE SECOND TEXT

- Deliberate side trip/digression BW3

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not become partners with those who do not believe, for what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship does light have with darkness? ¹⁵ And what agreement does Christ have with Beliar? Or what does a believer share in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what mutual agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, just as God said, “I will live in them and will walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” Most likely about attending idol feasts IN pagan temples. Word refers to the place of worship in a temple, not simply the area. “Paul apparently believes that the Corinthians are in danger of becoming spiritually linked with the demonic forces resident in the temple” (BWIII, 405).

¹⁷ Therefore “come out from their midst, and be separate,” says the Lord, “and touch no unclean thing, and I will welcome you, ¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters,” says the All-Powerful Lord.

- Within a decade of this letter Emperor Nero was executing Christians Rome on the charge of misanthropy, antisocial behaviour!

LANDING THE PLANE