**Sunday 4 September**

13th Sunday after Pentecost

**Luke 14: 25-35**

***25****Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them,****26****“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.****27****Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.****28****For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?****29****Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,****30****saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’****31****Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?****32****If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.****33****So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.*

***34****“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?* ***35****It is useful neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; they throw it away. If you have ears to hear, then hear!”*

1. ‘Hate’ is a very strong word. What other words come to mind that you’ve encountered in reading the Bible that seem overly harsh.

Why do they grate?

1. Jesus is using ‘hate’ as hyperbole.

What is he not asking his disciples to do?

What is he really asking of his disciples?

1. What does discipleship look like in our church in 2022?
2. *The uses of salt in Palestine were to flavour food, make the ground easier for ploughing and planting, and preserving.*

*So when Jesus says his disciples will be like salt , he means they will give flavour and help life taste good, for themselves and especially for others.*

*They will prepare the ground for people to receive the kingdom of God, in their families and the wider community.*

*They will preserve what is life-giving.*

What does it mean to live as a disciple of Jesus in 2022?

1. How can this challenging passage in Luke help us to have momentum and move with grace in our lives?