

SEPTEMBER 4, 2016



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



WISDOM 9:13-18B

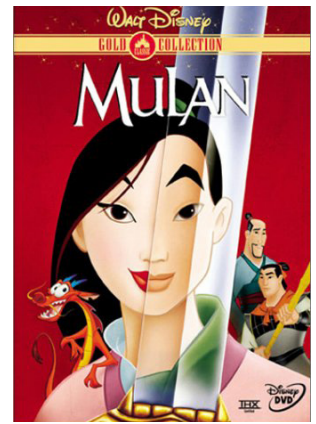
PSALM 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17

PHILEMON 9-10, 12-17

LUKE 14:25-33

REFLECTION

After I graduated from college, I chose to do a year of full-time service in Denver, Colorado. During that time, I volunteered for forty hours per week and was given a meager allowance for rent, and a food budget for my community of ten. That year was one of the most formative years of my life, but it was certainly not an easy decision to go against the norm. While my parents eventually supported my decision, their first choice was for me to get a “real job” and start making money. I had to make the tough choice to follow what Christ was calling me to do, despite my parents’ hesitations. In today’s Gospel, when Christ calls us to hate our families, what he means is that we need to put God’s will above everything else in life, even the people we care about most. Discipleship is certainly not easy!



MULAN

Mulan chooses to follow her heart rather than her family’s expectations.

ACTION

Choosing to put Christ first and being a disciple is quite radical and countercultural. Fortunately, we have many great examples of what it means to be a true disciple and the goodness that comes out of that choice in the lives of saints. Take some time this week to research a saint who turned away from familial expectations to follow Christ. A great place to start might be St. Elizabeth of Hungary. St. Elizabeth was a princess. Instead of using position in the royal court to further a political career she chose to care for those most in need.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Christ tells us that we must pick up our own crosses in order to follow him. What are some crosses you have to bear in order to be a disciple of Christ?
- Today’s Sunday Gospel also encourages us to use the gift of prudence when making decisions, like a builder making sure he has enough funds, or a king employing battle strategies. How can you better use the gift of prudence, or good judgment, in your own life?