

# **Pastor's Bible Study**

**September 7, 2025**

## **The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 18**

### **Hymn 783 “Take My Life and Let It Be”**



7. The language that Jesus uses in verse 26 is harsh. Read Matthew 10:37 and John 12:25. How do these verses help us understand Jesus' words?
8. Are Jesus' words in verse 27 prescriptive (commanding action in the life of a Christian) or descriptive (describing the life of a Christian)? Explain the difference.
9. What do the analogies in verses 28-30 mean, and how do they bring clarity to verses 26-27?
10. Dr. Harold Buls writes, *"verse 33 is the key to the whole passage. God does not require us to renounce our possessions. Poverty is no virtue. God does require that we say goodbye to all our own resources, our own supposed self-righteousness and strength. The whole passage is a good example of the second use of the Law, to show people their utter inability to reconcile themselves to God, to save themselves, and then to live the difficult Christian life of sacrifice and suffering. But justification and sanctification (which must be sharply distinguished) are a gift of God in Christ."* Read Luke 9:23-25. How do these words from Jesus provide insight into today's text?
11. With this in mind, what are the Law implications of this text?
12. What are the Gospel implications? See Galatians 2:20.

### **Devotional Thought from The Lutheran Study Bible**

"Here Jesus illustrates the unconditional nature of discipleship. Consider well the radical demands of following Jesus, and be ready to meet them. Yet, count also the demands our salvation placed on the Son of God, who gave up all things for us. He is your tower and refuge of strength" (TLSB, 1747).

### **Prayer**

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect for Proper 18).