

SO SHALL BE IT!

In the Gospel of Mathew 10:22, the scriptural reading is very prophetic of the difficult challenges awaiting us when we follow our Lord, Jesus Christ. At the time of Jesus, these words were particularly directed to the Apostles themselves since each one of them was asked to leave everything behind, including all of their possessions and loved ones, to come follow Him. During that time, they were still suspicious and uncertain of Jesus' intentions since He was relatively unknown to them and to leave everything behind for the sake of following Christ was very difficult indeed. Not only will they endure the wrath of their loved ones for abandoning them but they would also suffer great anguish knowing that following Jesus, who proclaims himself as the Savior and the Son of God, meant persecution and even death in the hands of the Romans. However, despite these horrendous circumstances confronting them, still they all heeded the call of Christ and became "Fishers of Men".

And so the question arises, "How much are you willing to endure to follow Christ?"

As we all know, Christianity is generally more acceptable nowadays and we are no longer persecuted for our faith, but let us question ourselves and examine our conscience to see if we are truly deserving of our faith. What if preaching the words of Christ to your friends, family members and the group of people you socialize with will put you at odds with them?

Would you be willing to put a strain in your relationship with your inner circle in the name of Jesus or would you play diplomacy and be selective of whom you preach to? What if the phrase "But it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved" was not included in the gospel of Mt 10:22, would you still be able to endure the pains of disdain and rejection knowing that there is no reward waiting for you?

All I know is that every single one of these questions is painful to imagine, and anytime I entertain these questions, it seems I am driving the nails on Jesus' hands deeper, penetrating the cross.

Living in Christ is a lifetime mission and difficult indeed, and is a challenge faced by all His believers, young and old alike. If the price for bringing closer to Christ those whom we love the most is pain and sorrow, then so shall it be! If feeling the anguish and pain is my reward in sharing the passion of Christ, then so shall it be!