

The 14th chapter of Luke reports some blunt words from Jesus to a crowd of followers. Verse 27: “Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” It’s all or nothing. And yet Jesus continues to call us to follow, to be disciples. Our prayer for peace today leads to true discipleship as we hold a mirror to our souls’ desire and listen for the Lord’s eternal call.

O God, Author of Peace,

Forgive us for when we translate your peace for our comfort. For when we adore Jesus as healer but ignore him as challenger. For when we marvel at Jesus enduring the cross and overcoming death, but we forget that he empowers and calls us to carry a cross for justice.

Let us never be satisfied with band-aid peace that hides but does not heal the infection of selfishness, apathy and injustice. Lord, we do not fear as you call us to soul searching because in you there is no condemnation, only refinement and redirection.

We long to be more fully your disciples. Melt and mold, shape and use us, O God, that we may be true instruments of peace.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, AMEN

(Claudia Schooler)