John 12: 24-26
Jesus said to his disciples:
"Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.
Whoever loves his life loses it,
and whoever hates his life in this world
will preserve it for eternal life.
Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there also will my servant be.
The Father will honor whoever serves me."

Our Scripture Reflection
Following Jesus, serving Jesus, means going against everything that our society teaches us is normal and valuable. The way of Jesus really does run contrary to the way of the world pretty much in every way. Are you willing to go against such a powerful force? Are you aware that doing so is going to cost you, dearly? To do so means to choose the way of the Lord completely and decisively, and it's gonna cost you to be sure.

Food for your Journey
Christian piety has trivialized the passionate God of Golgotha. Christian art has turned the unspeakable outrage of Calvary into dignified jewelry. Christian worship has sentimentalized monstrous scandal into sacred pageant. Organized religion has domesticated the crucified Lord of glory, turned him into a tame theological symbol. Theological symbols do not sweat blood in the night. In his landmark work, The Crucified God, Jurgen Moltman writes:
We have made the bitterness of the Cross, the revelation of God in the Cross of Jesus Christ, tolerable to ourselves by learning to understand it as a theological necessity for the process of salvation. As a result, the Cross loses its arbitrary and incomprehensible character.
--Brennan Manning,
The Signature of Jesus, 35.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, As Isaiah said so powerfully: “Your ways are not our ways; Your thoughts are not our thoughts” (Is. 55: 8-9). Lord, make me humble and open to Your way at all times and despite the cost. Amen