Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."
Jesus knew there would be times when His disciples would have to make a choice between one’s natural affection for one’s kin and allegiance to Him. The true disciple must be ready, if necessary, to act towards someone who is dearest to them as an object of hatred (the opposite of love). Has this ever happened? Yes. Sadly, I have seen occasions when a parent had to take a stand against a son or daughter in order to remain faithful to Jesus.

**Food for your Journey**

“End of the Spear” is the story of the five missionaries who were killed while taking the gospel to the Auca Indians of South America. Although they might have defended themselves, they laid down their lives, leaving family and children behind.

You could argue that such loss of life was a waste. But remember what one of the missionaries wrote in his journal: “He is no fool who gives that which he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”

Their work eventually led to the conversion of many, if not most, of the tribe.

**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You never promised that being a disciple would be easy at all times. After all, You said many times that the true disciples must pick up His/her cross. You showed us how to do so with perseverance and love. Help me, Lord, to follow Your example despite the cost. Amen