

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

LUKE 14: 25-33

25. And it came to pass, there went great multitudes with Him, though this time all had prepared a packed lunch and flasks of mead and wine: and He turned, sighed, and said unto them,

26. If any man, or woman, or ungendered come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and husband, and children, and brethren, and sisters, and aunts and uncles, and even cousins unto those that are three times removed, yea, and his or her or gender-neutral own life also, he or she or howsoever they describe themselves, cannot be My disciple.

27. And whosoever doth not bear his cross (and here he includeth everybody in this one gender) and come after Me, cannot be My disciple. And by this I do not mean bearing a small silver cross on a chain about one's neck or even a tattooed cross upon a chest or limb or even buttocks. And fish signs on the back of carts don't count either.

28. And suddenly by means of an illustration He saith unto them, For which of you, intending to build a tower, yea a tall pointy one with nice crenellations at the top, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost of materials and labour and health and safety requirements, sick pay, pension contributions and bribes to the council for planning permission, whether ye have sufficient to finish it?

29. Lest haply, and I like that word, after ye hath dug the foundation and poured the concrete, am not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock thee,

30. Saying, This one began to build, and was not able to finish for all the reasons mentioned above. Nathan No-Tower, eh?

31. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth with his advisors and military commanders whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

32. Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage with gifts of gold and cloth and spices, and a large pot of curry, with sufficient clean towels, and desireth conditions of peace.

33. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple. And the people did murmur and mutter and question each other after this final saying, for they understood not the meaning thereof, and did clamour for more free fish and barley loaves.