

## GOSPEL PEARLS

# Overcoming avarice

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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.”

(Lk 14:25-33)