Jesus passed through towns and villages,
teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem.
Someone asked him,
"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"
He answered them,
"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,
for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter
but will not be strong enough.
After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door,
then will you stand outside knocking and saying,
'Lord, open the door for us.'
He will say to you in reply,
'I do not know where you are from.'
And you will say,
'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.'
Then he will say to you,
'I do not know where you are from.
Depart from me, all you evildoers!'
And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth
when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God
and you yourselves cast out.
And people will come from the east and the west
and from the north and the south
and will recline at table in the Kingdom of God.
For behold, some are last who will be first,
and some are first who will be last."
Our Scripture Reflection

When asked about how many people might be saved, Jesus did not give an answer. Instead, He describes what it takes for one to experience salvation. In the gym, one will hear from time to time the old saying, “No pain, no gain”. In the spiritual life, that saying could be better expressed: “No cross, no crown.” Jesus told the crowd that growing in holiness requires a contest-like struggle that is not for the faint of heart. It takes a daily effort rooted in faith and perseverance in order to resist and overcome temptation. Satan does not want us to win. Yet with the help of God’s Grace which is always there for the asking (perhaps even begging) we can be victorious. Please remember, Our Lord did not create us to fail. He wants us to enjoy Heaven with Him one day.

Food for your Journey

U Thant was Secretary-General of the United Nations for 10 years. He had a stock short speech for use with educators and students around the world in which he contended that happiness was to be found, not in the pursuit of happiness, but in pursuing physical, mental, moral and spiritual perfection - all at the same time. Placing these qualities in ascending scale, he said: "I would attach greater importance to moral qualities or moral virtues over intellectual qualities.... And above all, I would attach the greatest importance to spiritual values, faith in oneself, the purity of one’s inner self, which to me is the greatest virtue of all."


A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, This world is filled with so much anger and hurt. So many people seem to lack compassion for those who are in need. My culture calls me to put myself and my wants, first. Please help me, Lord, to keep my eyes focused on You and Your way. Help me to resist all temptations and distractions. And when I become weary of the struggle for faith, pour Your amazing Grace upon me. Amen