

21ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Isaiah 66: 18-21 *Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13, Luke 13: 22-30*

Seeing Jesus, someone is prompted to ask: **“Sir, will only a few be saved?”**

NB: Jesus ignores to directly respond to this question for a good reason.

- ❖ The business of who and how many will be saved is God’s prerogative
- ❖ We should not be wasting time and looking around speculating who and how many of our community will be saved.
- If we continue to do that we shall end up disappointed at the end of the day.

That’s why Jesus gives us this troubling story of those who were undoubtedly disappointed and he wants none of us to end in disappointment

- Nobody likes to be disappointed and Jesus would not wish it on anybody.
- There may be some of us who came to this Mass struggling with disappointment. It surely is not a nice feeling!

Q: But what does it mean to be disappointed?

- Failure to achieve certain expectations
- Failure to yield what we had hoped for.
- So, when we say that something is disappointing what we are saying is that it failed to meet our expectations.

Disappointment can also be summed up in the word **“defeat.”**

Today we meet people who feel defeated

- These are the people who have ate with Jesus,
- who have shared drink with him.
- These are people who have sat at the feet of Jesus listening to his teaching

When they knock expecting to be let in they get a slap in their face: **“I do not know where you come from?”**

Or **“away from me all you wicked men.”**

NB: In here Jesus scores the point with the man and us that simply knowing the Lord is not enough.

NB: I have for years bragged about going to lunch with the John Paul II many years ago when I was a bag carrier of the bishops of Malawi on their adlimina visit to the Holy Father and how he chose to give me the chasuble I am wearing now which he didn’t give to the bishops.

Q: What does all this feel good experience mean for where I stand with God?

- a) Physical proximity to Jesus is **not an insurance policy**
- b) Affinity or consanguinity with Jesus is never a ticket to the Kingdom of God.
- c) Even those of us who spend our lives in the church, eating and drinking at the table of the Lord cannot stop there.

Jesus therefore, is answering the young man not to waste time speculating with numbers.

If you do that, Jesus affirms, you will be disappointed

Q: So how can we avoid the path leading to disappointment?

- ❖ go far deeper than mere acquaintance with Jesus or mere acquaintance with the Church and her sacramental life.
- ❖ Our words and actions must proclaim the this kingdom.
- ❖ we have to struggle by the narrow door.
- ❖ We can avoid disappointment - rising above curiosity by struggling to be faithful to the will of God

Even those who know the Lord are not guaranteed salvation.

We are urged to rise above curiosity and

- a) move along with real life
- b) In other words can we be found among the poor, vulnerable and lost?

Salvation will not happen automatically. We therefore need to:

- c) Sail away from superficiality and make the world a caring place
- d) Q: Do we offer welcome and hospitality to all that we meet?**
- e) In other words, work hard, keep doing the right things, and don't get lost in speculative notions.
- f) We are called to be a kingdom people. Where are we from?