

LOOKING TO SUNDAY™

Sunday, August 22, 2010

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday™, focuses on the Gospel Reading for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. Looking to Sunday is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

How many people will be saved? How many people will be embraced by God's love for all eternity?

- (a) All people
- (b) Most people
- (c) Some people
- (d) Few people

I imagine that (a) and (b) would be the most popular choices. After all, if God is merciful, loving, kind, and forgiving as we believe, why wouldn't all people, or most people, be saved?

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 13:20-30), Jesus is asked how many people will be saved. In response, Jesus picks none of the choices above. He avoids the question and says "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."

When we hear "many" will not be saved, we may assume the "many" are those who do not believe. As followers of Christ, we may think we have it made. We are baptized, we pray, we come to Mass. Yet Jesus tells us it is not enough to assert "We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets."

Salvation demands much more. It demands striving to enter through "the narrow gate." That gate means surrendering our will to God's will. It means conforming our life to that of Jesus. It means being willing to suffer for the values of the Gospel.

The question is not how many people will be saved. The real question is "Am I doing what is required to be counted in that number?"

© 2010 Rev. Thomas B. Iwanowski