

In reply to a question, Jesus, in this Sunday's Gospel, expounds teaching about salvation. Salvation is available to those who struggle to obtain it, renouncing sin. "[God] desires all men to be saved" (1 Tim 2:4), but for this to happen, Christians need to "use the strength dealt out to them by Christ's gift, so that, following in his footsteps and conformed to his image, doing the will of God in everything, they may wholeheartedly devote themselves to the glory of God and to the service of their neighbor" (Vatican II, *Lumen gentium*, 40).

This is what the "narrow door" means; this passage puts us on our guard against the danger of having a false sense of security. To belong to the people of God, or to have known Christ and heard him teach, is no guarantee of the reward of heaven. God will judge us on what we actually do – on our response to grace (Matthew 25:31-46).

A number of times, Jesus describes eternal life as a banquet to which all are invited. "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach?" (Romans 10:13-14). Thus, "the Church ... has the obligation and also the sacred right to evangelize all men" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 847-848).

To evangelize is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to invite others to embrace the Christian faith. The primary way we can evangelize is by living a life that reflects Christ's teachings, because "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (Pope Saint Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 41). And so, we pray: "O Jesus, strengthen our souls, open out the way for us, and, above all, intoxicate us with your Love. Make us into blazing fires to enkindle the earth with the heavenly fire you brought us" (Saint Josemaría Escrivá, *The Forge*, 31), for when we become who we are called to be, we will set the world on fire (Saint Catherine of Siena).

Father Frei