

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – C

- In the 1st Reading today Isaiah says something radical for the OT
 - He's talking to those returning from the Babylonian exile and God says
 - “I come to gather nations of every language; they shall see my glory”
 - “I will send fugitives to the nations, Tarshish, Put, Lud, ...”
 - “They shall proclaim my glory among the nations”
 - “They shall come in chariots, in carts, upon mules and dromedaries”
 - “I come to gather nations of every language to see my glory”**
 - In the Gospel – Jesus says “people will come from NSEW & recline at table”
 - All nations are going to come from NSEW for that heavenly banquet
 - **How did they get in?**
 - *Some come in the back door, some jump the fence, sneak in a window*
 - *They think “Jesus knows us – He won't mind – it's OK”*
 - *There's an expectation that they KNOW Jesus* – but does He know them?
 - “We ate and drank with you, you taught in our streets”
 - BUT The Master says “I do not know where you come from”
 - NB** - He doesn't say “I do not know you”
 - He says “I do not know where you come from” WHY
 - Because they didn't come through the narrow gate
 - What is the narrow gate? Jesus
 - In Jn 10:9 Jesus says
 - “I am the gate. Whoever enters thru me will be saved”
 - If we want to be saved – we need a Savior
 - Only Jesus rose from the dead
 - Only Jesus redeems us from our sin
 - Only Jesus has the power to offer forgiveness
- If Jesus is the gate, we need to KNOW Him & be known by Him
- Just like the commitment between two lovers – total, complete
 - In scripture the word KNOW has special meaning
 - WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, KNOWLEDGE –
 - When Jesus says “I do not know you” it has meaning
 - So how do you we come to KNOW Jesus?
 - Just like any lover and beloved we need time with Him
- Prayer Scripture Study Action**

The invitation to the banquet is real – and the only way in is JESUS, the narrow gate
They will come from N, S, E, W to give God praise and glory.

It is our choice whether we will be among them