



Lenten Reflection for Tuesday, March 15th

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You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

Luke 13:22 - 31

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.

Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then in reply he will say to you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!' There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

This text brings a number of things to mind. First, am I doing enough? Will I be enough to enter through the narrow door? Second, what about everyone around me? Overall this text brings to mind the importance of aligning our hearts with God, that the internal relationship and intimacy we have with God has a greater potential to impact our actions than living according to a set of rules.

Many influential voices in our country today often call on the name of Jesus and the text of the bible to justify their actions. Often these actions are not at all aligned with my understanding and interpretation of Jesus' hope for humanity. In the past when I have read this passage I have felt some anxiety- how do I know for sure that God will recognize me and let me through the door? Am I disciplined enough in my spiritual practice? Are my intentions aligned with God's heart- or serving self centered goals? While it is impossible to know for sure, and there is always more that can be done- today I take comfort knowing I do try my best to lead a life in which God will recognize me. I take comfort knowing the kind of faith

community I have aligned myself with- one that values and respects refugees, students in our city, trans-lives and so many more. One that sacrifices their time and resources to improve the lives of our neighbors. I see a reflection of God's kingdom in the community of Holy Apostles- rooted in welcoming all rather than counting out many. I take comfort knowing that I am not alone in caring about the ways our country is shaped by fear and hatred- and wishing we could move closer to acceptance and love. In this comfort I continue to ask God what more he wants for us, and how we can best serve our community.

It is not for me to judge whether others will pass through the narrow door. What a relief! While understanding who we align ourselves with based on shared values is important- it is not our responsibility to decipher the intentions of each individual we come across and compare their actions to our own. It can be so easy to lose the thread of what we value and get bogged down in the minor details, but when we align our hearts with God and seek out God's intentions we need not worry. In this season of lent I hope to focus on honoring what God lays on my heart and praying for my community.



I live in Prospect Lefferts Gardens with my husband, Carl, and our rescue greyhound, Smokey. I work in fashion design at a women's wear company. I started attending Holy Apostles in 2020 just before the pandemic and have appreciated attending virtually the past two years.