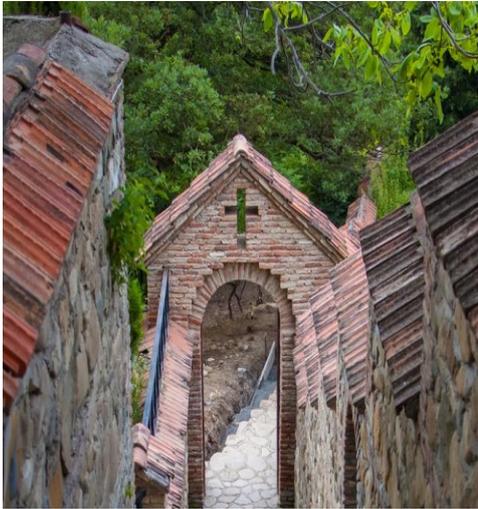


Gospel of Luke 13:22-30
Sunday, August 25, 2019
ASIA



“Lord, will only a few people be saved?”
He answered them, “Strive to enter through
the narrow gate, for many, I tell you,
will attempt to enter but will not be
strong enough...”

Today’s Gospel reminds us, that the path to eternal life is open, but the way to go through it, is a narrow passage. It requires: self-denial, mortification of our pride, self-centeredness and fears. And it demands us perseverance, constancy and firmness, to fix our eyes and direct our hearts to Jesus, the Christ. As He said “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his daily cross and follow me (Luke 9:23).

It is a constant invitation to strive in taking daily option that leads to salvation. To be more conscious in choosing roads that point to a closer imitation of Christ. To open oneself to a path of transformation that seeks God’s will and cooperates with His grace. Someone who does not only heard the *Word* of God and listen it, rather commit him/herself to follow the master, keeping His teachings and bearing fruit through perseverance (Luke 8:15).

To strive, to enter through the narrow gate entails; to stay in the course of a taught and rough daily life, who fights and struggles not to be derailed and tempted to take a wider, plane and less demanding path. Instead, to be a tuned to God; trusting His ways and wills and making oneself available for the needs of his/her brothers and sisters. Allowing oneself to be driven by God, unloading heavy baggages of personal inconsistencies, unbeliefs and sinfulness. So, we can be more Christ like, as we take life’s journey each day; radiating light, spreading joy, transmitting hope and expressing love more concretely. Moreover, we can take part in the promise of God’s salvation as an expression of His unconditional and infinite love for all of us. A love that embraces everyone and excludes no one.