Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario C + San José 2025

Cuando mueras, ¿qué será de ti? ¿Adónde irás? Para muchos, esta es una pregunta inquietante. El Evangelio de hoy aborda el tema de la salvación. Si lo leemos con atención, puede revelarnos dos verdades clave sobre la salvación: primero, que Jesús es quien nos permite ir al cielo. Segundo, que, con su fuerza, debemos vivir nuestra fe en Jesús. Es decir, debemos vivir como Jesús nos enseña. Oremos para que depositemos nuestra confianza en Jesús, quien murió para salvarnos de nuestros pecados, y para que, con su ayuda, podamos vivir como Jesús nos pide.

El 24 de agosto de 2011, el vuelo 236 de Air Transat despegó de Toronto, Canadá, con destino a Lisboa, Portugal. Había trescientas seis personas a bordo. Cuatro horas después del vuelo, se produjo una fuga de combustib**le. Finalmente, un motor se apagó y luego el otro. El vuelo 236 se había convertido en un planeador gig**ante. En lugar del rugido de los motores que impulsaban el enorme avión con más de trescientas personas sobre el océano Atlántico, reinaba un silencio absoluto a bordo. Los pasajeros navegaron en la oscuridad y en un silencio aterrador durante veinte minutos. El avión descendía a gran velocidad. Los pasajeros comenzaron a entrar en pánico y se pusieron los chalecos salvavidas. La gente lloraba, y algunos rezaban. Seguramente, pensaban que todos iban a morir. Afortunadamente, la tripulación logró realizar un aterrizaje forzoso en una isla del océano, lejos de Portugal. El avión impactó a 375 kilómetros por hora, lo que provocó el reventón de varios neumáticos. Una vez aterrizado, algunos pasajeros sollozaban, y otros estaban demasiado débiles por el terror como para caminar sin ayuda.

Solo podemos imaginar lo que pasaba por la mente de esos pasajeros mientras volaban sobre el océano en un enorme avión en absoluto silencio. Tuvieron veinte minutos para pensar en qué les sucedería al estrellarse. ¿Adónde irían? ¿Qué les sucedería?

En el Evangelio, se le pregunta a Jesús si sólo unos pocos se salvarán. No responde de inmediato a la pregunta. En cambio, dice: «Esfuércense por entrar por la puerta estrecha». Aquí Jesús usa la imagen de una ciudad amurallada como imagen del cielo. Continúa diciendo que una vez cerrada la puerta, nadie puede entrar. En tiempos de Jesús, cerrar la puerta de una ciudad era un asunto serio, y no era fácil abrirla. Jesús dice que alguien estará afuera y llamará para pedir que lo dejen entrar. Jesús dice que el amo responderá: «No sé de dónde son». Obviamente, cuando está oscuro, es difícil ver. Por eso es tan importante que las personas a quienes visitan conozcan bien a los visitantes. Así, podrán distinguirlos por su voz y su figura. Cuando la gente proteste y diga: «Comimos y bebimos en tu compañía y enseñaste en nuestras calles», Jesús dice que el dueño de la casa les dirá: «No sé de dónde son», y les dirá: «Apártense de mí todos los que hacen el mal». Los que estaban encerrados asumieron que, por ser conocidos del amo, se les permitiría entrar. Sin embargo, como nos dice Jesús, sí eran conocidos, pero también eran malhechores. En otras palabras, de alguna manera pensaron que podrían entrar porque conocían al amo, aunque lo desobedecieron por completo.

Esto nos dice que no es que el amo sea una persona tremendamente mala y malvada. Nos dice que quienes quedaron encerrados están allí debido a sus propias malas vidas. Se han condenado al infierno, donde «llorarán y desesperarán». Por otro lado, el pasaje del Evangelio concluye con la respuesta de Jesús a la pregunta: «Muchos vendrán del oriente y del occidente, del norte y del sur, y participarán en el banquete del Reino de Dios». Estas son buenas noticias para todos nosotros. Jesús vino a salvarnos de nuestros pecados, y habrá personas salvadas de todos los rincones del mundo. Personas de todos los países e idiomas estarán allí.

Amigos, todos debemos tener humilde confianza en nuestro destino. Todos debemos creer que Jesucristo vino a esta tierra para reconciliarnos con su Padre. Elegimos libremente ser "los que hacen el mal". Sin embargo, si nos arrepentimos de nuestros pecados y nos esforzamos por seguir a Jesús viviendo una vida buena, seremos salvos. Esta es la voluntad de Dios para nosotros. Oremos para que seamos contados entre los que vienen "del este y del oeste, del norte y del sur, y participarán en el banquete del Reino de Dios".

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time C + St. Joseph 2025

 When you die, what will happen to you? Where will you go? For many people this is a scary question. The gospel today addresses the topic of salvation. If we read it carefully, it can give us two key truths about salvation: first, that Jesus is the one who allows us to go to heaven. Second, with his strength, we are to live out our belief in Jesus. That is, we are to live as Jesus teaches us. Let us pray that we might place our trust in Jesus who died to save us from our sins and that with his help, we might live our lives as Jesus asks us to.

 On August twenty-fourth, two thousand and one, Air Transat flight two thirty-six took off from Toronto, Canada flying to Lisbon, Portugal. There were three hundred and six people on board. Four hours into the flight a fuel leak started. Eventually one engine went out and then the other. Flight two thirty-six had become a giant glider. Instead of the roaring of the engines propelling the huge plane with over three hundred people over the Atlantic Ocean, there was absolute silence onboard the plane. The passengers coasted in the dark and in terrifying silence for twenty minutes. The plane was descending pretty quickly. Passengers began to panic and put on their life vests. People were crying, and some were praying. Surely, they thought that they were all going to die. Fortunately, the crew was able to crash land the plane on an island in the ocean, far from Portugal. The plane hit the ground at two hundred and thirty miles per hour which caused several tires to burst. Once they had landed, some passengers were sobbing, and some were too weak from terror to walk without help.

 We can only imagine what was going through the minds of those passengers as they were flying over the ocean in a huge plane in absolute silence. They had twenty minutes to think about what would happen to them when they crashed. Where would they go? What would happen to them?

 In the gospel, Jesus is asked if only a few people will be saved. He does not immediately answer the question. Instead, he says, strive to enter through the narrow gate. Here Jesus uses the image of a city with walls surrounding it as an image of heaven. He goes on to say that once the gate is locked, no one can enter. In the time of Jesus, locking the gate of a city was a big deal, and it was not easy to unlock. Jesus says that some will be outside the gate and will knock and ask to be let in. Jesus says that the master will respond, I do not know where you are from. Obviously, when it is dark, it is hard to see. This is why it is so important that the visitors are well known to the people whom they are visiting. This way, they can tell who the visitors are by their voice and by their figure. When the people protest and say we ate and drank in your company, and you taught in our streets. Jesus says that the master of the house will tell them I do not know where you are from, and he will say to them, “depart from me, all you evildoers.” Those locked outside the gate assumed that because they were acquaintances of the master that they would be allowed inside. However, as Jesus tells us, yes, they were acquaintances, however, they were also doers of evil. In other words, they somehow thought that they could get into the gate because they knew the master even though they completely disobeyed the master.

 What this tells us is that it is not the case that the master is some tremendously mean and evil person. It tells us that the people locked out are there because of their own evil lives. They have condemned themselves to hell, where “there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.” On the other hand, the gospel passage concludes with Jesus’ answer to the question. He says that “people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.” This is good news for all of us. Jesus came to save us from our sins, and there will be people who are saved from every corner of the globe. People from every country and language will be there.

 Friends, we should all have a humble confidence about our destiny. We should all believe that Jesus Christ came to this earth to reconcile us with his Father. We freely chose to be “evildoers.” However, if we repent of our sins and strive to follow Jesus by living a good life, we will be saved. This is God’s will for us. Let us pray that we would be numbered among those who come “from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.”