

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“Lord, will only a few people be saved? Try to enter through the narrow gate for many will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.”

Luke 13: 22

Try to enter through the narrow gate. Why is the gate a narrow gate? And why is it that many will not have the strength to enter? How strong do you have to be to be able to enter through the narrow gate? The gate is narrow enough for you to get through and for me to get through but not much more than that. There isn't room for you and me if we are carrying a lot of stuff, extra baggage, things we won't really need or things which we have grown attached to but which have no place in the Kingdom of God.

What things? Well, excess baggage for example. What do I mean? Things we tend to hold onto which are not good for us or helpful to us or beneficial to us. But sometimes we hold tightly to them anyway. What things? Hurts, slights, words which have stung us, sarcastic barbs, looks of disdain, curled lips and hateful tones. These are things done unto us and which have torn at us or been destructive of our inner peace or state of mind. And yet, we cling to them. We drag them with us. They become part of our baggage, part of who we are, part of what we remember and call to mind often.

Then there are those things we have done to ourselves: our lies, our infidelities, our impurities, our slothfulness, our lack of caring about other's needs, our deceitful ways and our easy lies, our reaching out and taking what has not been given to us. All of these things we do to ourselves and because we do not confess them we carry them with us but not overtly, not openly. We push them down deep inside of us and they swell us up like a person with edema. These things prevent us from entering into the narrow door.

But here's the thing. I cannot rid myself of the effect of things done to me nor the effect things I have done to myself. Only the Lord can. Are you strong enough to ask for his help? Otherwise you will not be able to enter through the narrow door because of the accumulated baggage in your body and soul. Are you strong enough to ask for his help? The question of the week.