

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK  
“Lord, will only a few people be saved?”  
(Luke 13: 22)

“Lord, will only a few people be saved?” What does that question mean? Most might say, “Well, you know. It means will most people get to heaven, make it into heaven.” There is this lingering sense that there is a day of judgment that is coming for each person and for every person. And, this day of judgment will be an assessment and evaluation of the person’s life, how they lived, what they did and what they did not do. God will assess each of us. And assign reward or punishment.

There is no person now alive who stands sinless before the Lord our God. No one can claim complete innocence for their lives. But, for those who believe in Jesus Christ, the real possibility of forgiveness for the sins we have committed and for the omissions of good things we chose not to do, exists. From the cross itself Jesus says: “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” He says this as he hangs in excruciating pain and is looking out on a crowd of vilifiers, opponents, brutal soldiers, self-righteous religious officials and distraught loved ones and followers. All of them put him on that cross. And yet, in his own mind he took on all they did to him and all that was aimed at God from the first sin until the last sin. Jesus takes it all on. Why? Because we cannot free ourselves from our sin. We need another to do this. Jesus is the Incarnate Word of God, the Beloved Son, sent precisely to accomplish this.

But God will not force this forgiveness on anyone. God will not force us to admit our sins and surrender them to his Son to be dealt with and transformed. God will always invite this behavior but not compel this behavior. God will always provide sufficient grace to each individual to choose the path of receiving forgiveness. But each person has to choose to respond to the grace of the moment.

So that question at the top of the page. “Are there only a few who will be saved?” The answer is. All who want to be saved, will be saved. Those who do not want to be saved, who choose not to be saved, will not be saved. The answer is left up to each person. We ourselves, with the grace of God will decide whether only a few will be saved. Where is your own heart, right now? The question of the week.