



The Shepherd's Voice

February 19, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

'The Narrow Door'

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.’ Luke 13: 24.

This coming Sunday's passage from Luke 13: 22-35 is a call for deep spiritual discipline and insight, the Holy Spirit working into us the life of Jesus at every turn of the journey. This is a passage that changed my life! Years ago I thought all I had to do was come to church once in a while, put a couple of bucks into the offering plate, sing a few songs occasionally and generally try to be a 'good guy' in the world (so as to not get into trouble!). Surely I'd get to heaven. Then, this passage hit me right between the eyes. What did Jesus mean about a 'narrow door'? What did He mean by 'strive'? Then, He seems to say that some will not be able to enter into the Kingdom of God (heaven) because when you read the rest of the passage it's clear that Jesus is saying that even though someone might "eat and drink" in His presence or they sat and listened to His teaching, they might be in jeopardy of not entering His Kingdom. They might hear those awful words of exclusion that Jesus said, "I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!" Weeping and gnashing of teeth follow!! You'll see the believers in heaven "but you yourselves will be cast out!" This is radical! For most people today in the world around us, they simply believe that all will go to heaven and live the 'good life' there. But, Jesus clearly is saying that is not so.

Now, do not fear. You are of those who believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, right?! Well, this is what I thought too. But, believing is living differently from the world. A couple of things Jesus said changed the way I think. First, Jesus said enter by the 'narrow door'. When you look at what this means He describes this in the Gospel of John, chapter 10:1-18, a great study. Jesus says, "**I am the door** of the sheep." (Jn 10:7) He says, "I say to

you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber!" The real sheep hear His voice, and he calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. This is the key. Real sheep (i.e. Believers) listen to the voice of the Shepherd Jesus and they know Him, and He knows them by name! Do you know Jesus really well? Does He know your name; as in, 'are you on an intimate personal relationship with Him'? That's why He will have to say to some, "I never 'knew' you; I don't know where you are coming from"!

So, how do we know Jesus more than we ever thought we could before? There's that other word in Luke 13:24, "Strive". The Greek word here in English transliteration is: 'Agonizesthe'. We get the word 'to agonize' from this. Here in context it means a present imperative to 'keep on striving' or to "take great pains, to wrestle as in a prize contest, straining every nerve to the uttermost towards the goal" (Spiros Zodhiates in The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible). This then is the way of Jesus. We strain for the upward goal to seek the prize of Christ Jesus, as St. Paul says in Philippians 3:14ff. We are for this life on earth meant to seek and find Jesus at every turn, talking with Him along the way, worshipping Him earnestly and diligently obeying Him in all His commands. What does this translate to?

If you're not engaged in your spiritual and living relationship with Jesus Christ every day, you're missing the best way of life you could ever have on earth. He is the door we must enter, the only way to heaven. He needs to know us. He can't if we refuse to know Him or do not allow time for Him to be known in our hearts. Therefore, we need to be in church every Sunday or whenever your Sabbath is. We need to be in Bible Study or directed teachings of the Church each week. We need to apply Jesus' life that is truly incorporated into our lives in our everyday walk in the world. We simply need to

practice the real presence of Jesus in our lives,
 every moment of every day.
 Lent calls us deeper. Are you going deeper? Listen
 to the voice of the great Shepherd and do what He
 says, be what His is, and live like He wants us to.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in Jesus
 Christ's love,
 Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

February 24, 2013		8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader		Linnie Phelps	Pat Seelig
Psalm Reader		Choir	Cline Handy
Second Reader		Nancy Tackett	Jim Livingston
Intercessor		Joy Rosendale	Kaylie Manville
Lay Euch. Ministers		Dick Phelps, Trish Stewart	Richard Rieder, Francis Slaughter
Acolytes		Joy Rosendale	Kaylie M (C); Damon W (T1); Kai C (T2)
Welcomers		Myrna Lipnicke, Maureen Green	Jane Rost, Paula Sholly
Ushers		Jackie Lansing, Dick Sholly	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, JR Fox, Jim Livingston
Vestry Person of Day	Carolyn Blumberg		
Healing Ministers		Jan Simon, Jane Rost	Connie Fowle, Trish Stewart
Announcer		Kay Focke	Petey Seibold

Join us tonight at Grace for a special screening of a one act play that will help to solidify your understanding of what it means to be an Anglican. Written by Ron Speers from St. James in Newport Beach, this play will answer your questions about our tradition and practices. It is presented in an engaging format and promises to be enjoyed by all.

**Tuesdays in January and Beyond
 Feb. 26-Mar. 19th**

Donna Brayton's life-changing course on the Sermon on the Mount will resume on February 26 with a potluck @ 6:30PM. This is Jesus' powerful teaching on how to live as a truly committed follower of Christ in community with others. Be sure to sign up at the book table in the Narthex. Come at 6:30 p.m. with food to share and stay for this wonderful series.

Let's attend the upcoming Christian Youth Theater production: FOOTLOOSE

Footloose celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people, guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind. Our own **Kaylie Manville** will be Vi Moore, the pastor's wife. (This is her last CYT performance as a high school senior!)

Showtimes: Saturday, Mar. 2 at 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, Mar. 3 at 2 pm; Saturday, Mar. 9 at 2 pm and 7 pm and **Sunday, Mar. 10 at 2 pm.**

Location: Star Theatre @ 402 North Coast highway, Oceanside, CA 92054

We can purchase a block of 10 tickets @ \$10/person for our church family...for multiple dates and times. Most of us are attending on March 10 @2PM.

Contact Sue Bentley @ 760.445.4049 or SusanBentley@roadrunner.com to order your tickets today! **This is a wonderful way to support our youth and families in our community.**

Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee & questions
for Fr. Alenskis
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
with Worship Team.

Fr. David
Alenskis will be
preaching this
Sunday.

Readings for Sunday

Genesis 15:1-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:22-35

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer
(Year C)

This Week at Grace –Feb. 19 -Feb. 26, 2013

Tues. February 19

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Lenten Potluck Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Special film on Anglicanism

Wed February 20

6:15 a.m. Br. Benno's Team
8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
3:30 p.m. **Alpha Club for Kids**
6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Thurs. February 21

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship
Excursion to Welk Resort Theater
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Fri. February 22

Fr. Joe's day off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace

Sat. February 23

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
9:00 a.m. San Diego Anglicans Vestries Meeting
3-5 p.m. Grace Vestry meets

Sun. February 24

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir
10:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team
10:15 a.m. Children's Church
Noon Prison Outreach Ministry meeting

Mon. February 25

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. February 26

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Lenten Teaching in Fellowship Room

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of
the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:
www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Save the date!

Feb. 19 Soup Supper
& Special Anglican film
Feb. 20 Vestry Meeting
Feb. 22 Evening Prayer Service & Healing-6:30pm
Feb. 23 Combined Vestry Retreat at Grace
Feb. 26 Donna Brayton's Class
Mar. 2 Cursillo Secretariat at Grace – 8-11 a.m.
Mar. 2 Yuma Cursillo Team at Grace 11-5
Mar. 9 Prayers & Squares – 9:30 a.m.
Mar. 9 Daylight Savings Time –set clocks forward.
Mar. 13 Soaking Prayer
Mar. 15 A Time of Liturgical Contemplation
Mar. 24 Palm Sunday
Mar. 28 Maundy Thursday – Foot Washing service
Mar. 29 Good Friday Services – Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Mar. 30 Holy Saturday – Great Vigil of Easter
Mar. 31 Easter Sunday – Services at 8 & 10:15 a.m.
Apr. 5-7 "Rooted"-Youth Min. at Green Oak Ranch
Apr. 10 Soaking Prayer
May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home