



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood community

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And 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. For behold, some are last who
will be first, and some are first who will be last."

(Luke 13:29-30)



Today's Gospel reading sits squarely within the tradition of Saint Gaspar. I can just imagine as he traveled from hilltop town to hilltop town, as he walked the streets of Sonnino and Patrica, the message he preached was very similar to what Jesus is trying to convey in this scene from Luke's Gospel.

As Jesus is journeying towards Jerusalem, where he knows he will have to suffer, a question is posed to him about salvation. The question is somewhat odd. The person does not ask how we are saved, or what do we have to do or believe to be saved, instead he asks if only a few will be saved. Jesus' answer is also peculiar. In fact, he does not seem to even answer the question. And this causes us the reader to go deeper into the scripture.

The point Jesus is trying to get across is the same one that John the Baptist preached and the same one that Saint Gaspar preached. Regarding salvation, now is the time! Do not wait! Do not hesitate! Turn back to the Lord now! As Jesus says in the Gospel, many will seek to enter but will not be able to because they waited. We must enter the banquet before the door is locked. We must be ready when it is time.

Saint Gaspar preached that now is the time to turn back to Christ. Now is the time to put aside anything that is preventing us from recognizing that Christ shed his Precious Blood for us and for all. Whether it is our sinfulness, the busyness of our lives, or our worry, we must put those behind us as we are made new and redeemed in the Precious Blood.

Jesus gives us a glimpse of what that redemption looks like further on in the passage. If we dilly-dally around and do not take seriously the message of Christ, we will be locked out of the banquet. And inside the banquet hall will be people from everywhere from the north, south, east, and west, because God's love knows no bounds. Again, that is the message that Saint Gaspar preached. We are redeemed in the blood of Christ, we, everyone. The rich, the poor. The black, the white. Women, and men. The powerful, the weak. The Jew, the Greek. Christ's blood was shed for all. We are all equal in the Kingdom of God.

Saint Gaspar stood on the dais that was erected in Sonnino, and with his oversized crucifix, spoke the words of salvation to a people who were suffering, bringing solace to them. That is what we are called to do today. We must shout it everywhere: salvation has come through the Precious Blood of Christ. Now is the time!

V. Rev Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S. is a Missionary of the Precious Blood and is currently serves as the Provincial Director. To learn more about the Missionaries, [click here](#).

This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org