

# 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

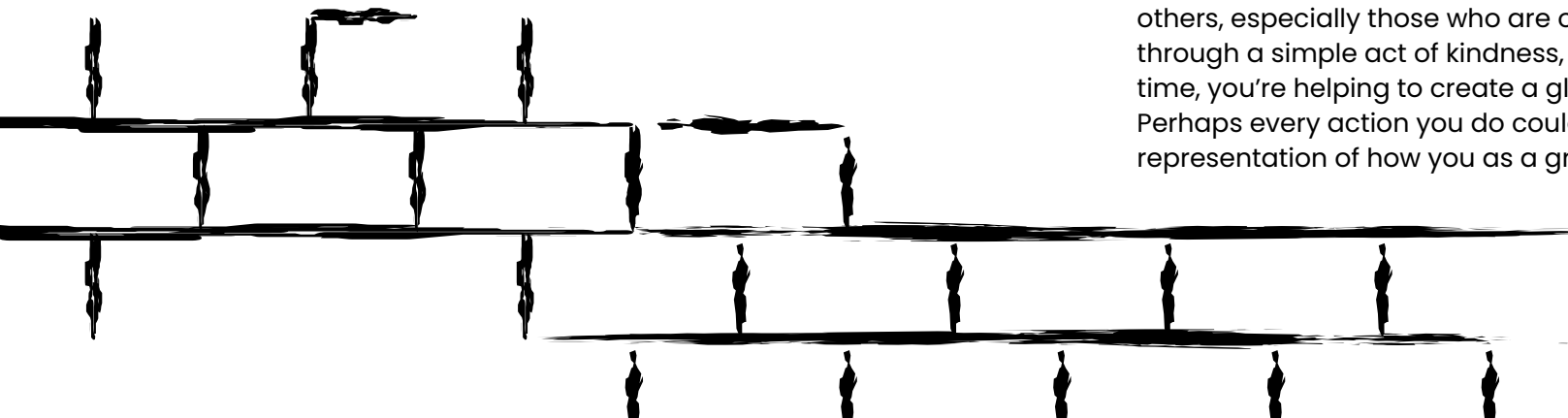
Luke 13:22-30

**'People will come from east and west, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.'**

At that time: Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying towards Jerusalem. And someone said to him, 'Lord, will those who are saved be few?' And he said to them, 'Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, "Lord, open to us", then he will answer you, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will begin to say, "We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets." But he will say, "I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!" In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

## Reflection

In this Gospel, Jesus tells us that following Him isn't always easy. He talks about a "narrow door," which means that to truly follow Him, we need to live in a way that's kind, loving, and helpful to others – just like St. Vincent de Paul did. St. Vincent spent his life caring for people who were poor and sick. He showed that being close to Jesus means helping those who need it the most, even when it's hard. It's not enough to just say we know Jesus; we need to show His love by how we treat others. Jesus reminds us that the Kingdom of God is for everyone who loves and serves, no matter where they come from or who they are.



## Activity

Jesus tells us the Kingdom of God is open to those who love, serve, and live with compassion.

It's not just a place we go to, but something we help build here and now through our actions.

- What do you imagine the Kingdom of God to be like?
- How do you hope to feel when you arrive there?
- Who do you believe will be there- and why?

Spend some time reflecting on these questions. You can write your answers, sketch your ideas, or create a visual representation that captures your vision of the Kingdom. Think especially about how your Vincentian values – loving the poor, serving humbly, and standing with those on the margins – help build God's Kingdom on earth, today.

Each person in your group is given one or more "brick" cards or slips of paper. On each brick, write or draw one way you can help build the Kingdom of God – something rooted in love, service, justice, or compassion. It might be a kind action, a prayer, a way to support someone in need, or a commitment to speak up for what's right. Stick your bricks onto a wall display or large sheet to create your own "Kingdom Wall." Watch how the Kingdom grows as each person adds their contribution.

## Call to Action

The Kingdom of God isn't just something we wait for – it's something we actively build, one act of love at a time. This week, choose one way to serve others, especially those who are often overlooked or in need. Whether it's through a simple act of kindness, standing up for justice, or offering your time, you're helping to create a glimpse of God's Kingdom here and now. Perhaps every action you do could be added to your wall as a visual representation of how you as a group are building the Kingdom of God.



