



*Strive to enter through the narrow gate.*

The great Catholic wit G.K. Chesterton points out, “It is always simple to fall: there are an infinity of angles at which one falls: only one at which one stands.”

Jesus makes it clear that the Kingdom of God is not just for the few, it is intended for all: *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.* But there is a grave danger of presumption – a danger of assuming that everything is taken care of, that the way will be ‘easy’. To enter the Kingdom we need to find that angle at which we can stand before God: we need to root out the sin in our lives and live not for ourselves but for Christ. And many do attempt to enter into that but then, finding it difficult, give up thinking that it should be easier and that they’ve done enough: they have, after all, called themselves Christians and participated in the sacraments. Shouldn’t that be enough?

Indeed, we might object that Jesus himself said *my yoke is easy and my burden is light.* Shouldn’t this all be easy?

But what makes the burden light is the love with which we bear it – when we have entered that gate and taken on that yoke in love, we will find great open pasture and the full freedom of the children of God – but taking on that yoke means letting go of all the things that do not belong to the Kingdom, especially my pride – and so we must first strive for that narrow gate of humility and maintain that course to know our freedom in Christ.

May we never presume the path to be easy or that we have already done enough – but may we strive to let go of all the things that hinder us and humbly take up that yoke of Christ in perfect love which can render even great and terrible burdens easy and light.

In Christ, through Mary,

*Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP*