

# CHAPTER 30

## We Reach Our Goal

### **The Particular Judgment**

One day you will reach the end of your pilgrimage and God your Father will call you home to be with him. When you die, you will meet Jesus, who will judge your life. We call this the Particular Judgment because it concerns only you and Jesus. Jesus will look at all of your thoughts, words, actions, and omissions from the time when you were old enough to choose good over evil.

And since only those without any sin can enter Heaven, some of us will need to be purified by suffering for a time in Purgatory. Through Purgatory, Jesus will heal our souls and help us to make up for the many sins that we have committed on earth.

Some very sad people will not want to meet Jesus when they die. These are people who have shut him out of their lives by mortal sin for which they are not sorry. Since they have rejected Jesus Christ of their own free will and cut themselves off from his love for ever, they have chosen to be for ever with the bad angels in Hell.

### **Hope and Joy**

Do we fear the Last Judgment? The idea of having even our thoughts judged by Jesus can make us afraid. This is because we are all sinners and we are ashamed of our sins, and we are also afraid of being punished for them.

It is true that we deserve punishment, but we may also hope in the mercy of Jesus. He wants to save us. And with a look of infinite love he will see all our efforts at obeying him, loving him and others, receiving the sacraments, and praying. He will see how we have used the grace he has given us. The more we grow in love of him on earth the greater will be our joy when we see him in Heaven.

### **The General Judgment**

Finally on a day and in a way that no one knows, the world will end, and Jesus will come to gather before him all the people on earth and all those in Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell. Jesus will judge every person who has ever been born. Each will go either to Heaven or to Hell for eternity. Only those people will go to Hell who have chosen to shut God out of their lives by mortal sin. We call this the General Judgment because every soul will be judged.

### **The Resurrection of the Body**

Has anyone ever told you that you will become an angel when you die? That is not true. Angels are complete without their bodies but human beings are not. Our souls were not



Beloved boys and girls, I conclude by saying to you, keep yourselves worthy of Jesus whom you receive! Be innocent and generous! Try to make life beautiful for everyone with obedience, kindness, good manners! The secret of joy is goodness!

(Pope John Paul II, Address given in St. Peter's Basilica on the feast of Corpus Christi, June 14, 1979)

made to exist by themselves. Your soul is only part of you and your body is such a good and beautiful thing that God would not throw it away.

At the end of the world Jesus will raise up the bodies of everyone who has ever existed and unite them to their souls again. We call this the resurrection of the body. But although your resurrected body will be the same body you have now, it will be different somehow. It will be glorified and beautiful and will live for ever.

### **Unending Joy**

Perhaps you have thought of Heaven as either boring or a place of separation. Nothing could be further from the truth. You will be reunited with all those you love and they will love you more than before. Think of it this way: the most beautiful place in the whole world or the happiest moment of your life cannot even come close to the beauty and happiness of Heaven. Above all you will be united with Jesus Christ in glory, and you will see God!

St. Paul tells us: "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard nor has it entered into the heart of man, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Meanwhile, before that wonderful time comes, we are still on the way. And, although nothing will be perfect until we get to Heaven, the holier we become, the more we will have a foretaste of Heaven on earth.

Just as Jesus has allowed Mary, so he also allows us, to help him bring our brothers and sisters to Heaven. If they see in your life goodness and kindness, sharing, patience, and cheerfulness, they will be drawn to Christ. He will work through you so that others will also want to become pilgrims to Heaven. And then Christ in his great mercy will reunite you with them and fill your hearts with unending joy.

### **Words to Know:**

Particular Judgment  
General Judgment    Purgatory  
resurrection of the body

**Q. 117** *Will Jesus Christ ever return to this earth in a visible manner?*

Jesus Christ will return visibly to this earth at the end of the world to judge the living and the dead, that is, all men, good and evil.

**Q. 118** *Will Jesus Christ wait until the end of the world to judge us?*

Jesus Christ will not wait until the end of the world to judge us, but he will judge each one of us immediately after death.

**Q. 119** *On what will Jesus Christ judge us?*

Jesus Christ will judge us on the good and evil that we have done in life, including our thoughts and things we failed to do.

**Q. 120** *After the Particular Judgment, what happens to the soul?*

After the Particular Judgment, if it is without sin and without a debt of punishment for sin, the soul goes into Heaven. If it has some venial sin or temporal punishment for sin, it goes into Purgatory until it has made satisfaction. If it is in mortal sin, as a changeless rebel against God, it goes into Hell.

**Q. 121** *What is Purgatory?*

Purgatory is the *temporary* suffering of the lack of the vision of God and also of other punishments that remove from the soul the remains of sin, making it worthy of seeing God.

**Q. 122** *What does “resurrection of the body” mean?*

The *resurrection of the body* means that our body will be reconstituted and reunited to our soul, by the power of God, in order to participate during eternal life in the reward or punishment which the soul has merited.

**Q. 123** *Who merits Heaven?*

Every good person merits Heaven—that is, he who loves God, serves him faithfully, and dies in his grace.