

**THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
**August 25, 2019**  
**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Isaiah 66:18-21 † Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 † Luke 13:22-30**

**Reflection by Alice McCoy, OP**

The readings for today challenge some of the most common human assumptions that we are living with today. To whom does "privilege" belong? Isaiah tells us that every nation of every language is gathered by our God to see His full glory and have a part in the building of God's kingdom! In the letter to the Hebrews we are told that "privilege" requires discipline. It does not mean we will have the power to do whatever we want without any moral discernment. God's discipline brings us *the peaceful fruit of righteousness* when we accept and endure our trials with faith in His promise to always walk with us. His discipline will keep us on the right path.

In Luke's gospel, Jesus tells us that the way into heaven requires our willingness to squeeze through a tough entrance and that our lives will have to give visible evidence that we are part of God's team in the way we live and make our choices. In the midst of the sad policies and arrogant privilege in our world today, we are really challenged to listen to our God's call to open our doors as He does, to all people...north, south, east and west. Those treated as "last" now will be seated first at God's table!

I pray that I will follow this call whenever I get a knock at the door of my life from someone God has sent to me for help.

