Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 22:1–14: The Parable of the Wedding Feast

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those invited: “Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.”’ Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.’ The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, ‘My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?’ But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’ Many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Focus Questions

1. How do the invited guests reply to the king’s first invitation to the wedding of his son?
2. What is their second response the second time he invites them?
3. What does the king do to those first invited?
4. Where does the king send his servants to invite wedding guests and whom do they invite?
5. What does the king ask one of the wedding guests?
6. How does the wedding guest respond?
7. What does the king do to this wedding guest?
The Parable of the Wedding Feast

**Directions:** Match each person from the parable with what he represents in the context of salvation history, and then answer the questions below. Finally break out into small groups and discuss the Wearing the Correct Garment Discussion Questions.

**Match each term with what it represents in salvation history:**

a. The King
   __________
   _____The Israelites

b. The King’s Son
   __________
   _____Heaven/The Mass

c. The King’s Servants
   __________
   _____God the Father

d. The Invited Guests
   __________
   _____Man presuming righteousness

e. The Wedding Feast
   __________
   _____Temple destruction in 70 A.D.

f. The King’s troops and the burning of the city
   __________
   _____Jesus

g. The second round of guests
   __________
   _____Moses and the Prophe"c"

h. The man without a wedding garment.
   __________
   _____Gentiles/All of Humanity

**Reflection Questions**

1. How can we apply this parable to our own lives?
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. What are ways that we reject the “invitation to the banquet”? What are some the excuses we use?
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
3. How can we better accept the invitation and find ways to invite others?

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________________________________________________________________________

4. At the end, one guest is removed from the banquet because he is without a wedding garment. What does the “garment” represent? What kind of “garment” are we wearing right now? Is it appropriate for the wedding banquet?

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________________________________________________________________________

Wearing the Correct Garment Discussion Questions

**Directions:** Discuss the following questions in your small group. Then share your findings with the class.

1. In addition to symbolizing the wedding feast in Heaven, this parable also represents the great wedding feast we are privileged to participate at every Holy Mass. What are some things you can do to prepare yourself physically and spiritually to receive the Blessed Sacrament at Mass? Make a list of things you can do to more fully participate in the Mass each week.

2. Reflect on the line, “Many are invited, few are chosen.” What do you think Jesus means by this?