



Daily Reflections

October 15, 2015

Scripture

Matthew 22: 1-14

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."

Our Scripture Reflection

Our Lord addresses His sharpest critics (chief priests and elders) with a parable in an attempt to convert their hardened hearts. In the parable He uses the wedding feast as a metaphor for the Kingdom of Heaven. He illustrates how God invites all people to come into His Kingdom, however, there were some who refused His gracious invitation. Not to be deterred by the ungrateful, God extends His invitation to include even those who were thought to be unworthy of the Kingdom. One of the attendees who had accepted God's invitation disrespected His graciousness by "dressing improperly". That man, because of his selfish response to God's goodness was judged unworthy and cast out. The point of Jesus' parable is important. God is so good to us. He showed the depth of His goodness by sending His only Son who gave His life so that we might enter the Kingdom. The questions posed by the parable are: Are we grateful? How do we show our gratitude for such an incredible gift? Do we "dress our lives properly" by the way we live our lives?

Food for your Journey

In his book, *Velvet Elvis*, Rob Bell tells the story of having his bill paid at a restaurant.

"I was having breakfast with my dad and my youngest son at the Real Food Café on Eastern Avenue just south of Alger in Grand Rapids. We were finishing our meal when I noticed that the waitress brought our check and then took it away and then brought it back again. She placed it on the table,

smiled, and said, 'Somebody in the restaurant paid for your meal. You're all set.' And then she walked away.

"I had the strangest feeling sitting there. The feeling was helplessness. There was nothing I could do. It had been taken care of. To insist on paying would have been pointless. All I could do is trust that what she said was true was actually true and then live in that. Which meant getting up and leaving the restaurant. My acceptance of what she said gave me a choice: to live like it was true or to create my own reality in which the bill was not paid.

"This is our invitation. To trust that we don't owe anything. To trust that something is already true about us, something has already been done, something has been there all along.

"To trust that grace pays the bill."

--Rob Bell, *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* (HarperOne, 2012)

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Thank You for giving Your life for me. Even though I am a sinner and unworthy of Your generous gift, You love me and call me to imitate You by the way I live my life. Make me Holy as You are holy and help me to live as Your disciple. Amen.