



Daily Reflections

August 23, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 22: 1-14

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and the 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 the king 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.
He 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

That lazy unappreciative lout! After having received an incredibly generous invitation to an event which he had been invited by default, one would think he could have at least shown his appreciation by dressing properly!

Jesus uses this parable to describe the various responses by people to God's gracious invitation to His Kingdom. God's invitation is universal in scope because He wants all of His children to be saved. But how do we respond? Are we humbled and grateful or do we take it for granted? Please remember our admission price was the sacred blood shed on Calvary.

Food for your Journey

A chapter in Anne Lamott's book, *Traveling Mercies*, is entitled: "Why I Make Sam Go To Church." Her son Sam, then seven years old, is the only child among his group of friends who goes to church. Sometimes he doesn't want to go, but she doesn't let him get away with that. Here's why: "I make him go because I can. I outweigh him by nearly 75 pounds. But that is only part of it. The main reason is that I want to give him what I found in the world, which is to say a path and a little light to see by. Most of the people I know who have what I want -- which is to say, purpose, heart, balance, gratitude, joy -- are people with a deep sense of spirituality. They are people in community, who pray, or practice their faith -- people banding together to work on themselves and for human rights. They follow a brighter light than the glimmer of their own candle; they are part of something beautiful."

--Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* (Anchor, 1999), 100.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Thank You for the price You paid for my salvation. I want to show my gratitude by living my life in imitation of You. May I be found worthy to enter Your Kingdom one day. Amen