August 22, 2019

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.”

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### Our Scripture Reflection

In today’s beautiful Gospel reading we receive a very clear message from Our Lord: God wants all people to be saved. Jesus came to extend this wonderfully gracious invitation to us all. But, we must respond to that invitation with humility and gratitude. We show that we are grateful by the way we live our lives. In ancient times, Christians referred to this type of living as “Clothing oneself in Christ.”

### Food for your Journey

When you feel you can do nothing right, picture a child, paintbrush in hand, gleaming with excitement. Enveloping her hand is the gentle hand of the world’s greatest artist. "And what shall we put in this corner?” asks the man, as his skill and the girl's imagination merge into one. See the artist's smile and the child's delight as together they create stunning beauty. Under God's guiding hand, your possibilities are mind-boggling. No matter how you feel, you are the focus of God's attention; doted on as though you are the only friend God has. If ever a man wanted to shower his bride with love, or his son with gifts, God longs to lavish you with his extravagance. Expect great things from God. Anything less is an insult to your almighty Savior. With your Lord impossibilities are playthings.

-Grantley Morris, "Knowing God's Love for You.”

Retrieved April 18, 2002.

### A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Each day I see signs of Your love for me: In the words of a family member or friend, in the beauty of Your creation, in the “thank you’s” I receive for the smallest acts of kindness I do for others. When I pause and think, I find it unquestionable that You always love me. Help me to show my gratitude by living my life in imitation of Your Son Jesus. Amen