



8944 ELBOW DRIVE SW
CALGARY AB T2V 1L2
TEL 403.253.2251
FAX 403.253.4608

October 11, 2020

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Last week we saw how God lovingly prepared a vineyard on a fertile hillside. This week, God takes the harvest from the fertile hillside and lovingly prepares a delicious marriage feast. The feast is ready for the guests - and so God sends his servants to send out invitations.

Everyone enjoys a good party. I'm sure many of you celebrated Thanksgiving last week with family and friends invited. A party is a time to be together with family and friends. There's plenty of food and drink. A party becomes a time where we step out of our routine and enjoy the good things of life. A feast is a moment to forget anxiety and celebrate.

In the story that Jesus tells the priests and leaders however, those who were invited to the feast ignored the servants and some even thrashed and killed them.

What was Jesus telling us with this parable? The marriage feast, of course, is the kingdom of heaven. The servants are the prophets, the greatest of whom is Jesus, and those who were invited are the Chosen people, represented particularly by their leaders.

The disconcerting question which baffles us is 'Why would they refuse?' Why would people so comprehensively, and maliciously refuse to enter the Kingdom so lovingly prepared for them?

The Scriptures are littered with the sad memory of those who failed for all sorts of reasons to enter the Kingdom, beginning with Lucifer and continuing on to us.

Those who hear the word of God but do not keep it will not be recognised by the Lord and will not gain entry into the Kingdom. When they knock on the door they will hear the Lord say, 'We do not know each other.'

Those who will not wear the wedding garment, in other words, those who failed to prepare and so lack the necessary dispositions for entering heaven will be cast out.

Life is very much a preparation for death, yet how many of us get so caught up in this life, that we forget? The curse of a blessed life like we are lucky to have here in Canada, is that it is easy to enjoy life and forget that it is passing, that it is meant to be the means to reach an even greater end.

The busy, those preoccupied with worldly concerns, those who worship money rather than God, are not worthy of the Lord and cannot enter the Kingdom.

Those who rely on themselves and not on God will not enter the Kingdom as they worship a false idol- themselves.

Life with Jesus as our shepherd is a life with a taste of security and comfort. In good times and bad, the shepherd guides, comforts and protects. We can carry the burdens and pains of life with the knowledge that the shepherd is there with rod and staff. By ourselves, we are nothing.

We are invited to a wonderful communion with God and with each other. The Sunday Eucharist we celebrate on earth is a rehearsal for this eternal banquet. That is why it is so important. It is here, at each Mass, that we are slowly transformed and sanctified for the marriage feast in heaven. It is here, at each Mass, that we are strengthened to live the kind of life God looks for in us.

Through the Sacraments especially we can get a taste of eternal life but so many of us would rather just shrug our shoulders. Many of us today will taste eternal life when we receive Holy Communion in a few short moments. But at the same time, I'm sure we can all call to mind family members or friends who have fallen away from the Church and haven't honored the invitation as we have.

When we refuse God, who has prepared a place for us in his house he does not punish us, we punish ourselves. We miss out on all he has made ready for

us. We miss out on the 'party', the feast and have to spend eternity outside the Father's house, in the dark. That would be hell, wouldn't it?

All are invited to God's eternal feast and it is full of the greatest riches and comforts. Why would anyone refuse such a grand invitation? Who would say no to eternal joy?

God chose you to send an invitation to. Prepare yourself so you can be among the chosen few who get in!

Stay safe and healthy.

Fr. Ignatius Tran