

## HOMILY FOR TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)2016

1. Parable of the Wedding Feast is kind of a trick parable
  - a. If invited to a banquet, who of us runs to the best seat
  - b. Most of us I suspect will try to find a middle seat, we won't be embarrassed either way
  - c. Trick parable because fear of embarrassment is actually epitome of pride
  - d. We are so important in our own mind, that everyone should know that already
  - e. We do not want a fuss made over us, because maybe people do not see us as the greatest as we do
2. That it seems to me is what Jesus is speaking about
  - a. He is criticizing a self-important pride
  - b. We do not want to be at the table of honor, but we belong there in our thoughts
  - c. We can feel self-important by comparing ourselves with those at a higher seat
  - d. Thinking you fools, you think you are so important, I am the really important one
  - e. So we see ourselves even in the middle as being in the really important seats
3. The second part of the parable is the part that can really challenge our pride
  - a. When you give a dinner or lunch party, do not invite friends, relatives, or comfortable friends who can return the invitation
  - b. Instead invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind
  - c. In Jesus time these are going to be the street people begging for survival
  - d. Like the poor of today it is tempting to look down on them
  - e. Why don't you pull yourselves up by your bootstraps and take care of yourselves?
  - f. Blind and lame, why isn't your family taking care of you?
  - g. Families probably rejected them because of the idea God must be punishing them or they would not be in such a difficult place
4. Notice what Jesus asks
  - a. He does not say give them alms, i.e., enough money to move on
  - b. For myself it is not real hard to give someone asking for help, the few dollars they ask for
  - c. To actually sit down and find out what they really need takes time and patience
  - d. So Jesus says: invite them to a meal
  - e. Get to know them, why are they so down and out
  - f. Even more so, discover what is it in them that God finds attractive
5. If someone, we instinctively turn away from, becomes our friend then we may conquer our pride
  - a. To get to really know another we must put ourselves on their level
  - b. It is not going to be easy
  - c. Our pride tells us we should be respected and looked up to
  - d. Jesus says we need to be looking up to those, that society rejects
  - e. In God's eyes, those rejected by society, are his special friends
  - f. To truly please God, and discovering His presence in a new way, we must swallow our pride
  - g. We must discover what we share in common with those rejected so that we can identify with them and see them as friends
  - h. When we learn to accomplish that, then God will invite us to a higher place next to Him