

HOMILY FOR THE 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MATTHEW 2017

1. Jesus: Kingdom of heaven like a king who puts on a wedding feast for His son
 - a. Listeners know that a king will put on a pretty good feast
 - b. Like Isaiah description of God's feast on the mountain
 - i. Rich foods, choice wines
 - ii. Repeats: rich juicy foods, pure choice wines
 - c. This sounds attractive to us, who generally eat pretty well
 - i. Remember this is a culture, generally poor, no refrigeration other than maybe a cool well
2. Suspect it would be hard for them to imagine a chance to go to a feast like this
 - a. In Jesus story, the invited guests to refuse to come
 - i. Listeners would have a hard time imagining
 - b. King sends his servants a second begging them to come
 - c. Banquet is ready, calves and fattened cattle have been butchered
 - d. Steaks are ready to be put on the grill, come
3. These guests are very rude
 - a. Some have excuses, I must take care of my farm or I must care for my business
 - b. Others just plain kill the servants
4. As Jesus says the ordinary king would be very angry and destroy the murderers
 - a. But he would still have all this food ready
 - b. Since the important invited people refuse to come, the king decides to invite the nobodies
 - c. Go out into the streets and roads, find anybody, good or bad, you can and invite them to share in this meal
5. Jesus does not give a moral to his story, he leaves it up to us to consider how we fit into the story
 - a. Perhaps we have a choice in characters
6. First question: what wedding feast is God inviting us to
 - a. What is the wedding feast of Jesus
 - b. We might even ask where are the rich, juicy foods and the choice wines
 - c. Don't we have to wait until we get to heaven, to be on top of the mountain Isaiah describes
 - d. Or can we celebrate with God right now
7. Difficulty for many of us is that the Eucharist does not look like a wedding feast
 - a. We hear some readings and prayers, we sing some songs
 - b. We share a dry piece of bread and sip some wine
 - c. Does not compare with the entertainment we can watch on TV
 - d. Like the guests of the kings, we could think our time is more valuable caring for the farm or working at our business

8. God does continue to nag at us, He keeps inviting us to celebrate with Him in the Eucharist
 - a. If we pay attention to the scriptures
 - b. We hear God inviting us to join His celebration
 - c. He tells us He wants us to be His people
 - d. we are important to him, He will never give up on us
 - e. He even gives us the words to say yes to Him in the prayers and the songs that we sing
 - f. The bread and the wine, they are not just ordinary bread and wine
 - g. They are the actual opportunity for us to be part of the wedding of Jesus
 - h. They become His body and blood
 - i. When we eat His body and drink His blood, not only does He becomes part of us
 - j. We become part of His body
 - k. Despite all our divisions and separations, our likes and dislikes, Jesus unites us all into one body
9. This does require faith and imagination
 - a. We must believe that God really does want us to be one with Him
 - b. We may struggle to imagine how He can make it happen
 - c. If we accept His invitation, God promises is that what we see and feel in our imagination now, will become as real as Isaiah description of a heavenly banquet
 - d. That God will wipe away our tears and fill us with the fullness of joy
10. We can refuse God's invitation to the wedding feast of Jesus with us
 - a. Perhaps our time seems more valuable, working on our farms or our businesses
 - b. But do we really want to spend all eternity doing that
 - c. God invites us to waste our time rejoicing with Him in the Eucharist today, and finally on the top of the mountain where all veils will be removed
 - d. We will see the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit face to face.