

Homily Resources and Petitions for the 28th Sunday of SEASON, Cycle A (11 October 2020)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Isaiah 25: On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples.

Psalms 23: He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.

Philippians 4: I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

Matthew 22: The servants went out into the street and gathered all they found, good and bad alike.

† Comment for the day:

Three of the four Scripture passages for this Sunday center on the image of God as a host who provides bountiful nourishment and good cheer for all. Like the vineyard image of last Sunday, the banquet image threads its way through both Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Isaiah describes a joyous and lavish feast provided by God, which is also a thanksgiving to God for delivering Israel from its enemies. And not only are the Israelites invited; all nations are given the hope that despair, sadness, pain and guilt will be no more. God promises to undo the curse of death imposed on Adam and Eve. Psalm 23 echoes Isaiah. God is once again a host who feeds, anoints, protects and gives hope.

In the second reading Paul writes from prison in Rome to the Christian community in Philippi. He is filled with joy and gratitude for their encouragement, their financial support and their friendship. He sees all these as a gift from God, and assures them that, just as they support him, so too will God support them.

Jesus' parable of the wedding feast raises many questions for us. Who refuses an invitation to a royal wedding? Why is God portrayed as a vengeful king? What about that wedding garment? Of course, there is a difference between a parable and an allegory; parables often provoke questions about our own lives that should be obvious, but we often overlook them. Thus, if it was foolish for those people to reject an invitation to a royal wedding feast, what sense do our own actions make in response to a far greater invitation?

Indeed, with this parable, Jesus is announcing a marvelous new event in the history of Israel's relationship to God: Jesus the Messiah is here, and the banquet, the fulfillment of so many prophecies given through the centuries, is at hand. God is inviting Israel to the fullness of joy. However, in the end, the leaders of Israel rejected the invitation.

The parable presents a vision of the Kingdom as a feast whose doors are thrown wide open to anyone, wicked or good, rich or poor. It is not an affair for the elite only; those who dine in the Grand Ballroom and those who dine in a soup kitchen are all welcome. However, the one without a wedding garment seems to be an exception. Why is the king so hard on someone just brought in from the road? The king has provided wedding garments for all the guests. Perhaps this person represents those who accept the invitation but who at best respond only half-heartedly.

Pope Francis reminds us that God is the ultimate source of all creation, the host of that vast banquet to which all are invited and by which all should be sustained. The Pope is especially concerned with the poor, who most often suffer first and most deeply the degradation of the planet. In today's parable the original invitees were too busy to join the celebration because they had their own private agendas. Will we commit ourselves to the task, or will we place our own priorities in first place and be "too busy" to attend?

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

In the meantime, we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. (#244)

Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest. [Citing the Bolivian Bishops' Conference 2012]... The impact of present imbalances is also seen in the premature death of many of the poor in conflicts sparked by the shortage of resources, and in any number of other problems which are insufficiently represented on global agendas. (#48)

The mindset which leaves no room for sincere concern for the environment is the same mindset which lacks concern for the inclusion of the most vulnerable members of society. (#196)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we might be given the grace to see beyond our individual concerns and problems so as to commit time and energy to caring for our common home and for all of our sisters and brothers, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we might advocate for the people of this earth who are suffering the effects of climate change and unjust social structures, that they too can rejoice in the feast that God provides for all, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

Visit our webpage to sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.