

The Twentieth Sunday After Trinity

Gospel Meditation

From the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew
Chapter 22, Verses 1 -
(1928 Book of Common Prayer, Page 218)

Jesus tells a parable about the resistance of the invited guests to a wedding feast of the king's son, and their subsequent punishment, and that of a guest who enters the feast without a wedding garment.



Introit Psalm:

“ Everything that thou hast done to us, O Lord, thou has done in true judgment, for we have trespassed, and not obeyed thy commandments : but give glory to thy Name, and deal with us after thy loving-kindness. “ (Song of the Three Children, v. 8)

“ Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way : and walk in the law of the Lord. ” (Ps. 119)

The Gospel account for today calls us to look beyond the story that our Lord is telling. An old friend of mine, would often say to me : “ *I'm tellin' ya', there's more to this than meets the eye* ” whenever he was the least bit confounded over something. He'd be right if he took today's parable at face value. There *is* indeed more than meets the eye ... let us see what that is.

In this account written by St. Matthew, the king's son is our Lord Jesus Christ. The wedding feast is membership in His Church and the sharing of His salvation. The people of Palestine in the time of our Lord's life were the first invited guests to this great Feast...but they turn down our Lord's loving invitation. Since that time, there have been many, many others who refuse the invitation with excuses that are just as absurd as the ones we hear in this parable.

It is hard to understand this way of thinking. We wonder why are these people so opposed to joining God's Kingdom? Why are people in our *own day* so hard to convince? Perhaps it is resistance to *Divine Love*...resistance to the *spiritual* by an overly dominant material world. Careers, possessions, personal fulfillment and advancement, and now, all things cyber...seem to be more preferable than associating with Christ and developing a relationship of intimacy with Him.

This blindness is not reasonable or logical, but it is more or less understandable. It points out the *ages-old difficulty about our human nature*: while we are made for God, (and in His Image), and only God can give us true and permanent joy and peace, we have these very fallible bodies that have desires and urges that usually seem much more attractive than those things that are spiritual.

However, our Lord, knows better than we do what is good for us. That is why He insists on getting people to the banquet. His love for us will not be denied.

Our Lord indicates, along with His desire for mankind to be one with Him in His Church, that He wants us to appreciate what we possess as members. I'm referring to the incident of the wedding garment. The man in today's parable who doesn't have on a wedding garment does more than show a lack of courtesy...he is careless and disrespectful. Actually, he scorns and despises the king and the king's son. He may even be there for a lack of having something better to do. He receives his just reward.

The wedding garment is the symbol of that inner transformation that membership in Christ aims to produce in us. At the end of time (or at the end of our lives), Christ will enter the banquet hall. If we have not put on Christ...if we do not have the mind of Christ...if we do not share in Christ's vision of life, His love for the Father and for His brothers and sisters; then we too, will hear those words: “ *Cast him into outer darkness.* ”

OUR LORD FOREVER

The whole point of this parable rests upon the wedding garment. We will have it, or we won't. *Christ is the garment.* We must possess Christ and be possessed by Christ. There is no other choice. Jesus' words; “ *Many are called, but few are chosen* ” ought to be terrifying to us...especially in light of all the love Christ has for us. Rather than terrify, let those words be for us, a call to action.

Jesus does almost everything for us. He invites us into His Church. He feeds us in the banquet of the Eucharist. He overwhelms us with the evident signs of His desire for us. As He puts it: “ *I am the salvation of my people,...in whatsoever tribulation they shall call upon me, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.* ” Truly, Christ is what He says He is; *our salvation!*

Jesus also says to us through Psalm 78 : “ *Hear my law, O my people : incline your ears unto the words of my mouth.*” If we have failed in our enthusiasm for Him in the past, perhaps there is a cause for that : *We may not sufficiently have attended to the words of His mouth coming to us through His Scriptures, nor the love of His Most Sacred Heart that comes to us in the Eucharist.* We would do well to prayerfully think about this, and then seek to make a better application.

“ *Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me, O Lord : thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.*” (*Psalm 138*).
Let us cry out to our Lord, Jesus Christ, to help us in our needs, and to make us know of the danger of over-confidence as well as that of carelessness over the words He lovingly speaks to all of us.

Jesus, You are our salvation. Continue to be our salvation so that You will then be our Lord forever.

Prayer for the Day:

The Marriage Feast indeed is ready.

Fr. k.l.l. +

**Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory
4 Shaw Road
Raymond, Maine 04071**

Sunday Public Mass with the Office of Terce to follow: 8:30 a.m.

Please Note: We are into October now, and mornings are cool in the Chapel please make sure to dress warmly if attending Mass.

Holy Days and Saint's Days for the Week of October 13th to the 19th, A.D. 2013.

Sunday, October 13th**20th Sunday After Trinity.** *St. Edward, King & Confessor: 11th cent.*
Monday, October 14th St. Callistus, *Pope & Martyr – 3rd cent.*
Tuesday, October 15th*St. Theresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church, Virgin, Carmelite Mystic.*
Wednesday, October 16th **St. Hedwig, Cist. Abbess.....** *Foundation Day of Servants of the Holy Family 1993.*
Thursday, October 17th St. Ignatius of Antioch, *Bishop & Martyr 2nd cent - Please pray for Br. Ignatius, OSB*
Friday, October 18th **St. Luke, Evangelist**
Saturday, October 19th*St. Frideswide, Abbess of Oxford 8th cent.*

From the Holy Rule of St. Benedict

Chapter 7 – On Humility :

“ The second degree of humility is that a person not love their own will nor take pleasure in satisfying their desires, but model their actions on the sayings of the Lord : “I have not come to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent me.” (Jn. Ch. 6; Vs 38).

It is written also: “ Self-will has its punishment, but constraint wins a crown.”

Twenty Years Ago



October 16th, 1993 – St. Margret's of Scotland, Conway, N.H.

This week, on Wednesday, October 16th (The Feast of St. Hedwig) we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Servants of the Holy Family, Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory. Twenty years before, seven men made their public profession into the Order of St. Benedict under the approval of, and given official blessing by the Rt. Rev. Bruce S. Chamberlain (R.I.P.), as Benedictine monks within the Diocese of the Northeast, Anglican Church in America. It was sometimes a long and arduous journey for the brethren as they attempted to discern God's will and discern the mission for this community. Some of the original formation members, eventually left the community, hearing a different call in their lives. Other men, after the traditional period of testing and trial, were admitted as brethren. As time passed, some of our brothers were also called home to Heaven; (Fr. John Heslin in 2001, Brother Dismas in 2001, and our first Prior, Br. Robert, in 2007).

Today our community is comprised of the following;

Fully Professed: Fr. Prior Kevin LaMarre, OSB
Sr. Mary-Francis Benedict, OSB
Br. Ignatius (of Antioch), OSB

Oblates: Oblate Sr. Therese, O/OSB (Christine Swasey)
Oblate Sr. Mary-Raphael, O/OSB (Valerie Kazarian)

Associates: Mr. Charles Lathrop
Ms. Barbara Mooar
Fr. Dean Steward
Mrs. Pauline Morris (honorary)

After many years of prayer, discernment, and attempt, the Servants of the Holy Family are living the life that Almighty God intended for us. We seek the Father through prayer, contemplation, and work. The monastic day according to the Holy Rule of St. Benedict is observed at the Priory, where intercessory prayer is included as a part of the daily round. We assist the local working poor as our means permit, and we operate a modest animal rescue and rehabilitation center (under the patronage of St. Francis) which cares for some of God's handicapped, neglected and abused creatures. The success in this venture has been great, when measured in the love that is given and received...all for the sake of love itself, in fulfillment of God's Holy Command.

Please join with us this week in thanksgiving by offering your prayers to Almighty God for the many gifts He has given us over these past twenty years. May He grant us many more!

Visit us at our website at: www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org

Blessings to you,

Fr. Prior Kevin, O.S.B. +

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