

October 15, 2017 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Let us clothe ourselves in the Lord's will!

Isaiah 25:6-10a

Psalms 23:1-6

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22: 1-14



In the first reading Isaiah calls his listeners to come to God's mountain where the Lord will provide a feast with pure, choice wines and rich food. Death will be destroyed forever, the web over the nations removed, and all their tears will be wiped away.

The psalmist looks to the Lord as the Shepherd, the One who will guide him in right paths, give him repose, and lead him to restful waters. His soul is refreshed and he is even anointed with oil, and from this time on only kindness and goodness will follow him.

In the second reading Paul reminds the Philippians that he has lived through contradictory conditions. There have been times of abundance when he was well fed; there were times of need when he had to go hungry. Regardless of the circumstances, these have always been learning situations. Paul now believes that he can do all things in the Lord Jesus who strengthens him. He thanks those who have helped him in times of distress and petitions God to help them in turn, in their needs.

In the Gospel Jesus speaks in parables of the kingdom of heaven. It is like a wedding feast where many were invited but found excuses not to accept the invitation. Hence, passerby's were invited to fill the reception hall. Yet among those was one not properly dressed and he was quickly ejected. "Many are invited", says Jesus, "but few are chosen."

The Father calls us to the mountain,
The Son prepares the feast,
The Holy Spirit shows us the path.

Someone entered the wedding reception in an unsuitable wedding garment and on the face of it this appears to be a trivial negligence that shouldn't be treated as harshly as it is in the Gospel. Keep in mind that before entering the reception there were extra garments available so that this particular guest didn't have an excuse. God invites us into the kingdom, offers us the proper attire, and expects us to use it. Let us clothe ourselves with God's will as we encounter the best and worst of times, and take on Paul's attitude that each is a learning situation.

When we think of a "kingdom" we associate with it a particular place, but Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom is something different as it implies the power of God and His action shown in the deeds Jesus performs. It is in these deeds that God as King clearly manifests his dominion and rule. In Luke 17:20-21 Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he said in reply, "The coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the kingdom of God is among you." Whatever power be in our world, the Kingdom will shake its foundations to the core and God's dominion established.

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