

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

October 17, 2021

“Jesus said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, who made a marriage for his son.”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost- Amen

The last two Sundays, we have been thinking deeply about the gracious provision that Almighty God has made for us as His beloved sons and daughters! We have been reminded of the many ways the our dear Father in Heaven has provided for us both in terms of the fruits of the field, and our nation’s outward order and security. Indeed we have so very, very many reasons to be thankful -today and always!

In today’s Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, we are called in particular to discover and respond to the generosity of our God in relation to the interior life-the life of our souls. These are spiritual truths that are essential for each one of us to take deeply to heart as we seek to walk ever more closely with our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ. As we meditate deeply upon these things, we will surely respond by displaying that spiritual generosity in our own lives-we will become images of the Divine love and Mercy to the world- a world that is waiting and watching for spiritual light and life!

In our Gospel reading today, we find our Lord teaching about the Kingdom of God-a kingdom that is not of this world-that is not based upon a human understanding of how things should be, but one that is radically different! This Blessed Kingdom is not simply another organization, another social or political movement! No this Kingdom that our Blessed Jesus speaks about is much more than that! The Kingdom of God is a Divine creation-it flows from the very heart of God Himself! Our Lord speaks of this Kingdom as a wedding, as an intimate union of ourselves, our souls, and bodies with the great Bridegroom. This is the Bridegroom that is seeking for His Bride with such passion and love-that will not rest until He has gathered all of those who have given themselves to Him in love and trust. He comes to call the world to leave the ways of hopelessness and despair, and to discover and embrace a new and living way-the way of life, mercy, and light instead of the way of darkness and death.

The Gospel reveals to us both the generous love of God, and the all too common attitude that so many have about this offer of new life. Christ relates that in spite of preparation having been made, and the guests invited, when the time came for the wedding to begin, not one of those bidden would attend! Everyone had “better things to do”-everyone looked to their own interests instead of responding lovingly to the generous invitation of their King! We might find this a shocking reaction, but if we are honest with ourselves and with our Lord, we can all recall times

when we were so wrapped up in our lives that we were deaf to the loving call from our Saviour to enter ever more deeply into the spiritual joys of the Kingdom of God!

Here is the thing friends- Christ is calling us every moment of every day, in every situation, in every decision that we have to make, in every word that we speak, to answer the call of the Kingdom of God-to listen ever more lovingly for the voice of our Heavenly Bridegroom, to guide us in love to His Kingdom.

The Lord Jesus tells us that although those who were first bidden to the wedding refused to attend, the generosity of the King caused Him to instruct His servants to go out and seek for those who would-for all those who would answer the call of love to be present at the wedding. Once again we are brought to understand that this wedding invitation is for ALL! The Wedding is not limited to a certain class or to a select few, but is open to all who will simply come at the gracious invitation of their King and their God. Here is a wonderful word of assurance for all of us-that the Kingdom of God has a place for everyone-for everyone who seeks the blessings of the new life in Christ our Heavenly Bridegroom. There is a place for each and every one of us dear friends, as we answer the call of the great King of all!

Today's Gospel reminds us that attendance at this joyful celebration is not dependant upon our deserving or merit-rather as guests, we are clothed by the King Himself with a wedding garment, a sign that worthiness is a matter not of our own virtue or deserving, rather the guests at the heavenly wedding are clothed with the righteousness and spiritual glory of the King Himself. For us Christian folk, it means that we trust and look to the precious blood of Christ as the radiant garment that clothes the guests at the Wedding of the Holy Lamb of God. If we are not clothed in this Divine Garment, we have no place among those who are seated before the King of Glory. Each of us must be very clear in our minds and hearts about this dear friends! Christ and His Righteousness is the Spiritual clothing that will make us fit guests at the table of the Lord of All! Knowing this then, let us be everlastingly thankful to the one who so tenderly calls us to Himself, and who promises us as His Children, all of the blessedness of dwelling in His presence forever!

St. Paul speaks to us in today's Epistle about how we are to live out our lives as the guests of the Lord of all. He tells us that we must not squander the graces that we have received at the Hands of our Lord, but that we are to walk wisely and carefully in this world, day by day seeking to understand and follow the life giving will of God in all that we do. We are to recognise the need for watchfulness over our hearts and minds as we seek to live for the Glory of God in all things-even the things that may seem insignificant and of no real importance. Yet for us as humble Christian believers, even the smallest things are opportunities for us to choose the way of holiness and humility, rather than the self seeking ways of the world. Every day can become a call to reflect in some small measure, the abundant generosity of our Lord to a world that has grown cold, and loveless for so many!

Let us begin today by asking our Lord Jesus to give us hearts that are truly thankful for all that we have received at His loving Hand. Let us ask Him to give us contrite and humble hearts that will seek to live in His love and Grace alone, and may we ask Him most especially to touch our hearts today, that they might become remade in the Blessed image of Him who is our King and Bridegroom-our Lord Jesus Christ!

Charles Wesley speaks of this desire for renewal and a Holy heart in the last stanza of Hymn no.543

“Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
Come quickly from above;
Write thy new Name upon my heart,
Thy new best Name of Love. Amen

May this be our prayer today and always!

Glory be to God for All Things! Amen