

PSALM 106

FOR JUDY

1-3 Hallelujah!

Thank God! And why?

Because he's good, because his love lasts.

But who on earth can do it—

declaim God's mighty acts, broadcast all his praises?

You're one happy man when you do what's right,

one happy woman when you form the habit of justice.

4-5 Remember me, God, when you enjoy your people;

include me when you save them;

I want to see your chosen succeed,

celebrate with your celebrating nation,

join the Hallelujahs of your pride and joy!

6-12 We've sinned a lot, both we and our parents;

We've fallen short, hurt a lot of people.

They cast in metal a bull calf at Horeb

and worshiped the statue they'd made.

They traded the Glory

for a cheap piece of sculpture—a grass-chewing bull!

They forgot God, their very own Savior,

who turned things around in Egypt,
Who created a world of wonders in the Land of Ham,
who gave that stunning performance at the Red Sea.

Historical and Cultural Context

The Parable of the King's Wedding Banquet is our Gospel Lesson for today is the last of three parables Jesus tells the chief priests and scribes who challenge his authority in the Temple.

- *Custom of Two Invitations: In ancient Near Eastern royal culture, hosts typically sent out two notices: a preliminary save-the-date followed by a final notice when food and preparations were fully completed. Rejecting the second call was a severe, insulting breach of honor against the monarch.*
It is also a prophecy about the messianic banquet, which was a traditional part of the Jewish expectation of the coming of the Messiah at the end of history.

Matthew 22:1-14

Common English Bible

Parable of the wedding party

22 Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. 3 He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn’t want to come. 4 Again he sent other servants and said to them, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Look, the meal is all prepared. I’ve butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything’s ready. Come to the wedding party!”’ 5 But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. 6 The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them.

7 “The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren’t worthy. 9 Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.’

10 “Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. 11 Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn’t wearing wedding clothes. 12 He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ But he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to his servants, ‘Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.’

14 “Many people are invited, but few people are chosen.”