Space for God The Banquet is Prepared



PREPARATION

• In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit •
And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."
And he added, "These are true words that come from God." Revelation 19:9

WORSHIP

Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him.
For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb,
and his bride has prepared herself.
Revelation 19:7

CONFESSION

The people refused to enter the pleasant land,
for they wouldn't believe his promise to care for them.
Instead, they grumbled in their tents
and refused to obey the Lord.
Psalm 106:24-25

MEDITATION – Matthew 22:1-14*

Jesus also told them other parables. He said, "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come!"
So he sent other servants to tell them, 'The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!' But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them."
The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. And he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren't worthy of the honor. Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.' So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests."
But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' But the man had no reply.

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY	
Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	What does the text say?
Respond	How does it relate to my life?
Rest	I welcome God's healing and renewal.

Then the king said to his aides, 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
"For many are called, but few are chosen."

ANCHORING PRAYER

Thank You for inviting me to Your table.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

What is God inviting me to do today?

What invitation from God am I refusing to accept?

WISDOM

In Jerusalem, the Lord of Heaven's Armies will spread a wonderful feast for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.
Isaiah 25:6

If we will look back upon the past, many of us will find that the very time our Heavenly Father has chosen to do the kindest things for us, and given us the richest blessings, has been the time we were strained and shut in on every side. God's jewels are often sent us in rough packages… but within we find the very treasures of the King's palace and the Bridegroom's love.
–A.B. Simpson

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

BENEDICTION

If any be a devout lover of God,
let him partake with gladness from this fair and radiant feast.
If any be a faithful servant,
let him enter rejoicing into the joy of his Lord.
If any have wearied himself with fasting,
let him now enjoy his reward.
• Amen •
Homily by John Chrysostom

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY
Be still and quiet before God.
Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance.
Speak, act, and serve from a listening heart.

PermaneSED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. **Bold** portions to be read in unison. *Lectionary, Year A
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