

Lectio Divina

October 15th 2023 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A – Matthew 22:1 - 14

²²⁻¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²⁴The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ ‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.’

<p>➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p>	<p>➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</p>
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In this week's gospel we have the image of a king who gave a feast for his sons wedding; in other words a special kind of feast, one which celebrates the establishment of harmony. We are reminded of times within communities or in the world and in ourselves that we are invited to put an end to separateness and a beginning to oneness. We are invited also to be alert to invitations that offer a fuller life and the danger of losing out if we neglect to respond. Have there been times in our lives when we changed for good because we responded to a special invitation to a 'banquet' where we felt accepted and loved?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for Pope Francis who is the voice of Jesus inviting us to unity of minds and hearts, not getting settled in our old ways but being open to the Invitation of the Holy Spirit in bringing the Good News of Jesus to all.

Forgive us Lord when we take your blessings for granted. We go around unconcerned and insensitive to the needs of others instead of being humble and thankful for all you do for us.

Help us Lord as your followers to be your servants bringing the Good News to our fellow men and women even though at times some will not be interested. Others will just be at the crossroads waiting for the call to your wedding feast.

