



October 15, 2017 Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 142 Gospel MT 22:1-14

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.'" Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."

Spiritual Reflection: Country singer Kenny Chesney has a song entitled "Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven..." and the refrain goes as following: "Everybody wants to go to heaven - Have a mansion high above the clouds - Everybody want to go to heaven - But nobody want to go now." When we feel like this, it is because we do not truly understand what heaven is like. Heaven is not a place where all our earthly pleasures are fulfilled because even if we had all earthly pleasures fulfilled we would still be empty. Heaven is the place where we are simply loved for who we are.

Spiritual Questions

1. What prevents you from wanting to go to heaven at this moment?
2. What is your image of heaven?
3. How does the Mass give us a glimpse of heaven?
4. What would it feel like to be totally assured that everyone loved you for who you were?
5. How can you bring about heaven here on earth?