



Small Groups

Parish Community of Saint Helen

Sunday, October 15, 2023

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Stirring the Soul: Facing Jesus' Challenging Calls with Hope
Week 2 ~ Seek to Be Chosen**

Opening Song [The Feast Meant for Everyone](#)

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, our brother,

You have promised to be present among us
whenever we come together in your name.

Remain with us as we meet
for the benefit and love of your people.

Guide us in our discussions,
and help us to do everything for your honor and glory
and for salvation of your church.

Jesus,

We praise you,

for you are our Lord for ever and ever.

Amen

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

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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."

Reflection Video: [Weekend Homily](#)

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Discussion Questions

1. How is this parable a “mini history” of the story of salvation?
2. Bishop Barron wrote, “God the Father has prepared a wedding banquet for his Son, and we are all invited. This is the poetic summary of salvation that can be found in the parable that Jesus tells this week. The urgent point is this: we must respond to the invitation, and we must don the proper wedding garment. Failure to do one or the other means we miss the celebration. ”
 - a. When did Jesus first call you to the banquet?
 - b. How did you respond initially?
 - c. How many other times did he invite you?
3. If you were to plan your wedding or redo it, what would you choose to make your celebration memorable?
4. We were all invited in the synod through listening sessions. We know the bishops and lay people are meeting in Rome at this time. What is your hope for the universal church?

Closing Prayer

Ask for the group intentions ~ *Lord hear our prayer* after each

Please keep in your prayers this month Pope Francis and all those gathering in Rome for the Synod. This prayer is from Pope Francis’ opening address in October 2021:

Come, Holy Spirit!

You inspire new tongues and place words of life on our lips:

*keep us from becoming a “museum Church”, beautiful but mute,
with much past and little future.*

Come among us,

*so that in this synodal experience we will not lose our enthusiasm,
dilute the power of prophecy,*

or descend into useless and unproductive discussions.

Come, Spirit of love, open our hearts to hear your voice!

Come, Holy Spirit of holiness, renew the holy and faithful People of God!

Come, Creator Spirit, renew the face of the earth! Amen.

Closing Reflection Song [To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul](#)