

# Getting Ready for Sunday!



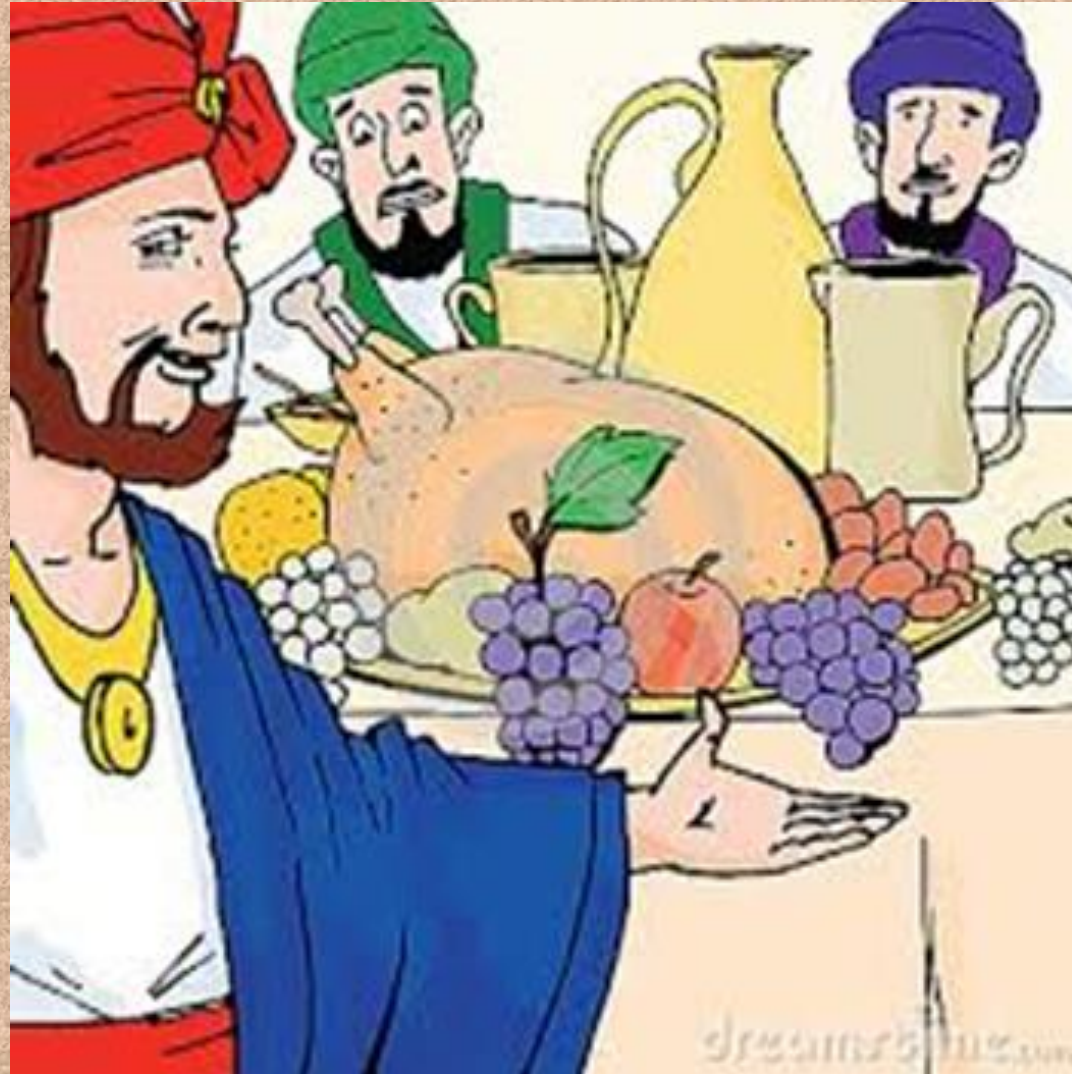
## **Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**The kingdom of heaven is compared to a great banquet.  
A banquet is a place of celebration, plenty, joy, love,  
friendship, nourishment.....**

**All are invited to the banquet – to share in the life of  
God’s kingdom of love – the choice is ours to accept or  
reject!**

**If we choose to come to the banquet, we choose to  
accept the many gifts God has given to us and to use  
them well every day of our lives.**

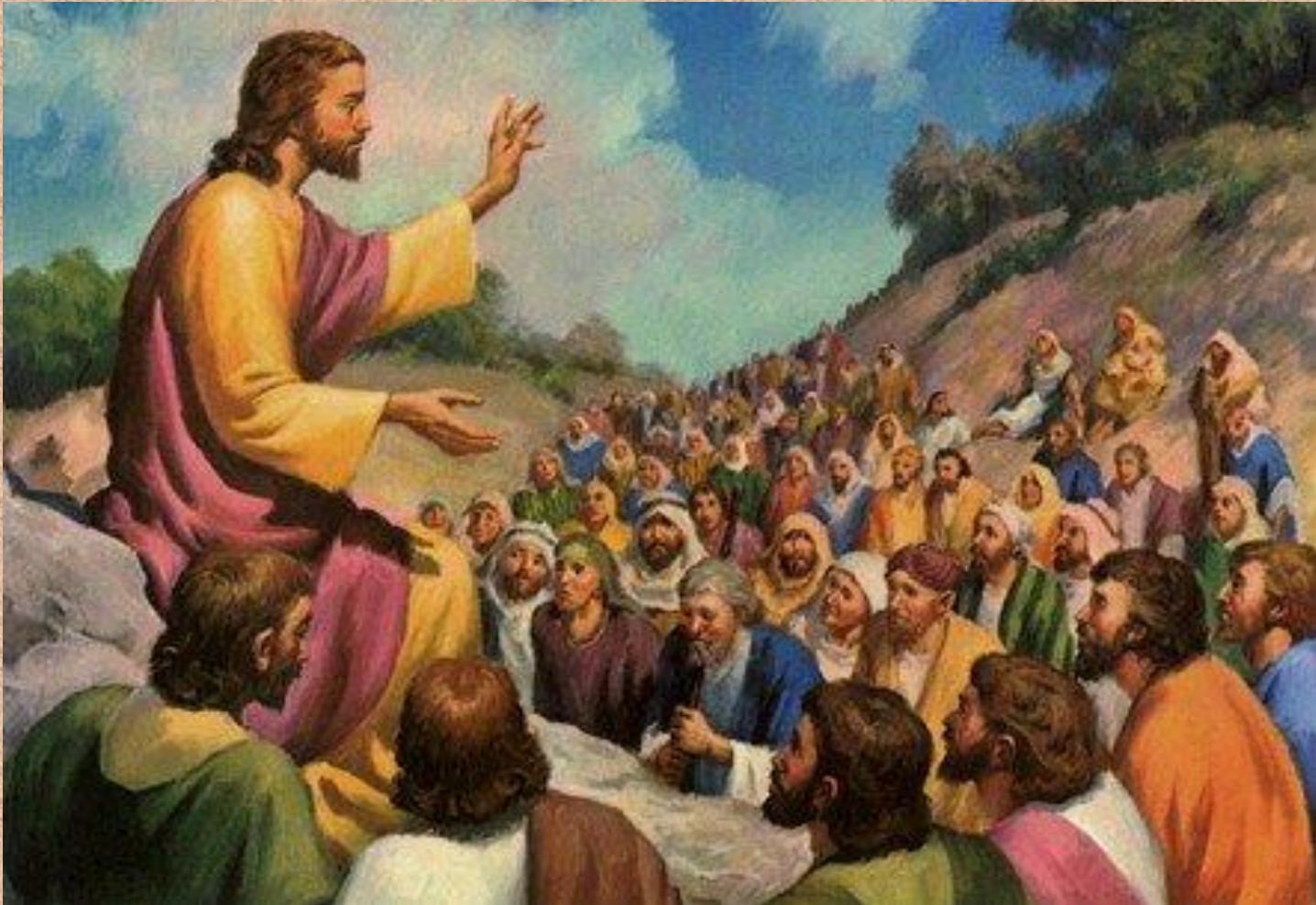
# Matthew 22:1-14



***The Parable of the Wedding Banquet***

**Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables:**

**'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding.'**



**He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come.**



Next he sent some more servants. “Tell those who have been invited” he said “that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding.



**Consider**

God the Father always has plenty of room for us at the table. He invites us to come to Him.

God invites you to share in His company today!

**But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them.**



**Consider**

**God invites us into his company every day:**

- In prayer
- By caring for others
- By doing the right thing
- By using our talents well
- By believing in ourselves

**Consider**

**Sometimes we turn away from opportunities to be present with God!**



**The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town.**





Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding."



**Consider**

God calls all people to the kingdom!

We share in belonging in God's kingdom when we are truly the best we can be!

**Consider**

Has there been a time recently, when you did something for someone and discovered that it made a big difference to them?

So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.



**Consider**

Let's open our hearts to all people!  
Do you accept the invitation to join  
the parish community at the table of  
the Mass/Eucharist.

**When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, “How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?” And the man was silent.**



**Consider**

**What robes do we need  
to wear for the banquet  
in God's kingdom?**

**We need to be clothed in  
love, service, kindness,  
generosity.....**

**Be the best person you  
can be!**



**Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”**



**For many are called, but few are chosen.'**



# LIFE LESSON

God chooses people that are not perfect to follow Him, to tell others about Him and to lead others.

You are **LOVED.**  
You are **CHOSEN.**  
-God

Ephesians 1:4

# Bible Search

Read **Matthew 22:1-14** in your family Bible-this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



# SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

## Matthew 22:1-14

**1. Scripture often speaks of the kingdom of God as a banquet. The image of people being at a meal where everyone is happy and welcome and where all hunger and thirst is satisfied gets across the idea that God loves, accepts and welcomes us and wants us to make that experience available to one another. Think of times in your life when you have had 'banquet' experiences and when you have felt accepted and loved?**

**2 The host enlists the help of his servants to invite people to the banquet. We are commissioned by the Lord to invite people to the banquet of the kingdom, to the fullness of life – as parents, teachers, friends, etc. What has it been like for you to play a part in leading others to a fuller life?**

**3 As in the parable last week there is a message about being alert to invitations that offer a fuller life and the danger of losing out if we neglect to respond to such invitations. Perhaps there have been opportunities offered to you that you missed, and now regret. Think also of the blessings you received because you seized the moment and took an opportunity that presented itself.**

**4 The second parable puts the focus on how we respond to invitations. Some invitations are ones that challenge us to change, to conversion, to put on a 'wedding garment'. What has been your experience of changing in response to an invitation you received?**



# Consider



**YOU have been chosen by God for a special purpose!**

# Praying to Jesus



**Pray for the grace to be aware  
of God's presence with you.**

**Ask God to guide you to do your  
best each day.**

