

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, & my cup is running over. (v5)

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples & poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, & pure, & transform us into a people of righteousness & peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The 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 & my fat calves have been slaughtered, & everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it & went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, & killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, & 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, & invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets & gathered all whom they found, both good & bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹But 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?’ & he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand & foot, & throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Consider again, *Romans 11:11-24*. What does this add to Jesus’ parable? How are *11:20-21 & vv11-14* above a stark warning to careless, half-hearted, ungrateful, and/or self-assured believers?
2. How does *Isaiah 25:1-9* connect with this parable? How does it help you decipher the characters & plot of the story? *Hint: v7 likely refers to the Roman destruction of Jerusalem & the Temple mount in AD 70. See Isaiah 6:10; Matthew 9:15; Galatians 3:27; Formula of Concord-Epitome: XI 12; FC available bookofconcord.org*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Consider connections between *vv9-10 above & Psalm 23:5*. List at least 10 things you find encouraging, comforting, inspiring, refreshing, etc. about *Psalm 23*. Share them with someone else & listen to their list. What did you have in common?
4. Read *Revelation 19:7-9* & consider what the Formula of Concord teaches about good works & their connection to faith/faithfulness. *See FC-Epitome IV; if you have time review the FC-Solid Declaration IV, too*. What does this tell you, both good & bad, about your own moral, ethical everyday life? What needs to change? What needs to be continue?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Non-believers & others outside the church find all our talk related to sin & confession off-putting. Based on this parable (esp. *v12*), how can you explain our insistence on Confession & Forgiveness before Holy Communion worship? *See Psalm 51:1-4; Matthew 5:23-24; 1 Corinthians 11:27-32*
6. Enjoy this Bach cantata tinyurl.com/3mmcuivr & this painting tinyurl.com/3xsh27tx both inspired by this parable. How does great art help us communicate faith & meaning to others?

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20th Sunday after Pentecost

10.15.23

Series: Judgment

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Ready or Not

God wants guests at banquet to BE READY for the feast.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe. (v11)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad & rejoice in God's salvation.. (*Isaiah 25:9*)

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