

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 15, 2017

This gospel from Matthew, talking about a king hosting a wedding for his son, has always confused me and been a bit perplexing. Specifically there are two parts to the parable that I wrestle with in my understanding.

I can picture the king, who represents God, to be calling us to heaven, much like the king is inviting guests to his son's wedding. At first no one responds. I can relate to that. I've invited people to seminars, events, parties, etc and I've been disappointed by poor attendance. So I understand the king's frustration. Then the king sweetens the offer, almost like businesses that run a sale or promotion to get people into their store.

I'm even reminded of the story of the flood victim who is on the top of the roof pleading for God's help to save them as the water is rising and they are about to drown. The people are frustrated and devastated because they did not think God responded to their prayers. God's response is, look, I've already sent you a four wheel drive vehicle, a boat, a helicopter, and you refused to accept those invitations. What else do you expect of Me?

I believe the moral to this verse of the gospel is we should heed God's call and we better be prepared and respond to his calling. He may only invite us so many times and if we miss the opportunity it's our own fault.

The conclusion of Matthew's gospel still confuses me though. The king, upon inviting everyone in the town and not giving anybody really any advance notice, comes up and talks to one of the individuals. He questions the person because of their attire. When the individual does not respond this infuriates the king. The individual is bound and cast aside to the darkness outside.

Perhaps I take this message too literally. I've always thought God accepted everyone, regardless of how they're dressed. Perhaps this person was a beggar and had torn, tattered and unwashed clothing and had no time to prepare for the wedding feast. As a lifelong Catholic I was taught to wear my best clothes to Mass on Sunday. As I've gotten older I have changed my belief to one which is, God doesn't judge us by our appearance.

I believe this gospel is making an analogy to the fact that we better be prepared for the coming of God for we don't know when that is going to occur.

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