

## Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Matthew 22:1-14

October 14, 2018

**Get infected with the King's invitation to his banquet. *Come now!***

Consider: What stands out in this Parable?

- the extravagant Wedding Banquet? The invitation.
  - ♦ What an honor! Who wouldn't go, esp. when the attire is provided!
- the persistence of the invitation?
- the despising of the invitation and the provided wedding garments
- The King! His passion to gather guests for this celebration.
  - ♦ *The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants ...to tell them to come,...*
  - ♦ The kingdom of heaven is **not** heaven. It's **how the king operates.**

**Get infected with the King's invitation to his banquet. *Come now!***

- ❖ The king's **passion/heart** to share this celebration is impressive!
  - The grand celebration of the union of Christ and his Church
  - Nothing spared! Grand banquet to match the celebration.
  - Persistence in calling the invited to ***Come now! It's ready.***
- ❖ The shocking response: ***but they refused to come.***
  - Not interested in the occasion for celebration
  - Not interested in the King's care or his lavish gifts and banquet
  - Too busy with their business! Better off not under the King's care.
  - So hostile to the King, his Son, the invitation - take it out on the servants
- ❖ It is critical to know: *What is the banquet? When is it served?*
  - *the kingdom of heaven* - easy to mistake as heaven or the resurrection
  - If you limit it - you'll ignore the invitation. I RSVPed. I'm set for heaven.
  - Psalm 23: *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*  
*Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*
  - Psalm 122: *I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."*
  - The banquet is ready. The party has begun. It's served **now**.
    - ♦ Come, be dressed in the wedding clothes of the Son's righteousness!
    - ♦ Come feast on the King's forgiveness, undeserved gifts, mercy, love, joy, peace, hope, wisdom - discover real life - life to the full in him.

- ♦ Come, be baptized with a baptism that keeps on working.
- ♦ Come, dine where the Word of the Lord is proclaimed fully, richly, freely, without addition or subtraction to God's banquet fare.
- ♦ Come, to the Supper of the Lamb - a foretaste to the eternal banquet

- ❖ Why wouldn't everyone one to come?
  - *I don't know! Really?* Sadly we do know from experience.
  - We've feasted on worry instead of God's covenant of love and care
  - We've feasted on misery and discontent vs. God's contentment and joy
  - We've feasted on loneliness and isolation vs. fellowship at the banquet
  - How foolish to tune out God's call to ***Come now! It's ready.***
    - ♦ Of course you can find it reflecting on your baptism and God's word
    - ♦ Of course you can find the banquet at your family altar
    - ♦ But it is fullest in the assembly - gathered around word and sacrament
      - Here is the Lord's Supper, your God-called Shepherd, community...
  - When I think I have better things to do, it's time to ask: What pseudo-banquet is my heart's desire and feasting on?

**Get infected with the King's invitation to his banquet. *Come now!***

- ❖ Get in touch with just how perfect and awesome his banquet is.
  - Aware of my struggle with sin, God's invitation is shocking
  - See how rich his gifts are - so much richer than the trinkets desired by sin!
  - A heart infected to want what God wants for me - the best!
  - God's banquet alone satisfies!
- ❖ Those who live for this banquet are walking billboards: ***Come!***
  - Keep on encouraging each other. Remind with infectious joy.
  - Let's stop making excuses for those who no longer come.
    - ♦ Share this parable. Those who despise the banquet now, despise it then!
    - ♦ It's not about getting to heaven! It's about being with and under God.
  - When you live excited to *be invited* - others want to know: What is it?
    - ♦ Psalm 34: ***Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.***
    - ♦ Share God's rich and satisfying gifts in Christ. Grow in and gift away.
    - ♦ Results: that's God's job. It's our calling to be infected with delight.

**Get infected with the King's invitation to his banquet. *Come now!***