

# SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup> for the 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**OPENING PRAYER:** Good and gracious God, you lavish us with your Word and bless us with your presence. Be with us now as we gather to share life and break open your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen

## READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL

- In the words of Saint Benedict, "Listen with the ears of your heart."
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today's passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

### Matthew 22:1-14

- 1 Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying,
- 2 "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.
- 3 He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.
- 4 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."'"
- 5 Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business.
- 6 The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.
- 7 The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
- 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come.
- 9 Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.'
- 10 The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.
- 11 But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment.
- 12 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.
- 13 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.'
- 14 Many are invited, but few are chosen."

\* [22:1–14] **This parable is from Q**; see [Lk 14:15–24](#). It has been given many allegorical traits by Matthew, e.g., the burning of the city of the guests who refused the invitation ([Mt 22:7](#)), which corresponds to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. It has similarities with the preceding parable of the tenants: the sending of two groups of servants ([Mt 22:3, 4](#)), the murder of the servants ([Mt 22:6](#)), the punishment of the murderers ([Mt 22:7](#)), and the entrance of a new group into a privileged situation of which the others had proved themselves unworthy ([Mt 22:8–10](#)). The parable ends with a section that is peculiar to Matthew ([Mt 22:11–14](#)), which some take as a distinct parable. Matthew presents the kingdom in its double aspect, already present and something that can be

entered here and now (Mt 22:1–10), and something that will be possessed only by those present members who can stand the scrutiny of the final judgment (Mt 22:11–14). The parable is not only a statement of God's judgment on Israel but a warning to Matthew's church.

\* [22:2] Wedding feast: the Old Testament's portrayal of final salvation under the image of a banquet (Is 25:6) is taken up also in Mt 8:11; cf. Lk 13:15.

\* [22:3–4] Servants...other servants: probably Christian missionaries in both instances; cf. Mt 23:34.

\* [22:7] See note on Mt 22:1–14.

\* [22:10] Bad and good alike: cf. Mt 13:47.

\* [22:11] A wedding garment: the repentance, change of heart and mind, that is the condition for entrance into the kingdom (Mt 3:2; 4:17) must be continued in a life of good deeds (Mt 7:21–23).

\* [22:13] Wailing and grinding of teeth: the Christian who lacks the wedding garment of good deeds will suffer the same fate as those Jews who have rejected Jesus; see note on Mt 8:11–12.

**"Q" stands for the German word "quelle" which means "source".**

**It is used by Bible scholars to name a source of stories that both Matthew and Luke drew from.**

**Matthew and Luke clearly had the earlier Gospel of Mark as one source of stories that gave them the basic outline of the story of Jesus. Therefore these three Gospels follow roughly the same outline and are therefore called the *synoptic* ("seeing together") Gospels. The Gospel of John is very different from the synoptics.**

**There are a lot of stories that both Matthew and Luke have, but which are not in Mark. Therefore the scholars believe there was a collection of stories, apart from Mark, that both Matthew and Luke used. However they have never discovered any manuscript – so they only assume it must have existed. Therefore they called it "Q" because they were Germans!**

**Today it is generally accepted that Matthew and Luke both drew from the Gospel of Mark, and both drew from "Q". In addition Matthew and Luke have a number of stories that are only in one or in the other but not in both. So Matthew and Luke each had at least 3 different sources of stories.**

## Thoughts and reflection on the Gospel Passage

### QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. What does living out your baptism mean to you?
2. The image of a banquet is one of the most common images used in the Bible to describe the Kingdom of God or heaven. Why do you think this is so? What makes a banquet a suitable image of heaven?
3. Do you believe everyone is invited to have a place in God's Kingdom? What do you think constitutes a refusal or 'no' to Jesus' invitation?
4. Name one thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed and act on.

## Commentary

The kingdom of God is imaged as a banquet to which all are invited to attend. The main focus of the parable is the response or lack of response from the invited guests. In this parable, Jesus continues to call the Pharisees and the religious leaders to conversion. Two invitations have been extended but the invitees refuse to come. Some even abuse and kill the servants delivering the invitations (a reference to the Old Testament prophets and the early Christian missionaries). There is one troubling verse in the Gospel which reads: “The King was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.” What are we to make of this verse, assuming that the King in the story represents God? Scholars tell us that the destruction of the city by the King is a reference to the Roman emperor’s destruction of Jerusalem about 70 AD, before Matthew wrote his Gospel. It would seem that Matthew interpreted this violent event as God’s punishment of the Jews for their rejection of Jesus. But such an interpretation does not square with Jesus’ love for all people—Jew and Gentile alike. As stated above, the main point of the parable is not about what God is like, but about the negative response of the religious leaders and all those invited to Jesus’ call to enter the Kingdom that he is inaugurating. The final piece about the ‘wedding garment’ underlines the importance of not only saying ‘yes’ to Christ, but also living according to his values. It is one thing to present oneself for Baptism; it is another thing to live daily the Christian way of life. We must “clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience” (Colossians 3:12). While all are invited to the banquet of God’s Kingdom, not all will respond.

### **IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?**

### **IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?**

### **CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord’s Prayer**

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom  
Starting Oct 11 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm EST Weekly on Wednesday  
notes

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting  
Time: Oct 11, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZlkd-ggrj8qG9Rt4LoXWaku9w9Mo6AzLDCs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGupzspEtSRsBiHRpwAHYigb\\_zziClfvpviEvJDBhkYwjjb\\_UbH70pMcL8](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZlkd-ggrj8qG9Rt4LoXWaku9w9Mo6AzLDCs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGupzspEtSRsBiHRpwAHYigb_zziClfvpviEvJDBhkYwjjb_UbH70pMcL8)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGblZSM2xZcWpGZz09>

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