

Matthew 22: 1-14 - The Marriage Feast:

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Pinocchio, made in 1940. #2 of 310 Disney movies. It's literally a story, But, it also tells a moral tale, Tell the truth, pray (wish upon a star), listen to your conscience or it will sit on your shoulder chirp at you all day. But, still, it is just a story!

In the "literal sense" of biblical interpretation, today's Gospel is just a story. You just heard it.

In the "allegorical sense" of biblical interpretation, this story is about Jesus and His times.

- Jesus directed this warning to the Jews of his day,
- both to convey how much God wanted them to share in the joy of his kingdom,
- but also to give a warning about the consequences of refusing his Son, their Messiah and their Savior.

In the "anagogical sense" of interpretation, (Sure, they use a word nobody knows).

- we look to the future, to the general resurrection, to the General Judgement and to heaven itself
- There we see some of the most beautiful images used in Scripture
- which depicts heaven as a wedding celebration and a royal feast
- given by the King for his newly-wed son and His bride.
- Whatever grand feast we can imagine on earth,
- heaven is the feast of all feasts because the Lord of heaven and earth invites us to this most important banquet of all.
- we are invited not simply as guests.
- but as members of Christ's own body, his bride the church!

There is another "sense" of this Gospel.

- I'll call it the "Present" sense or the "Liturgical" sense.
- This Mass is the "Wedding Feast!"
- All are invited
- In fact, when the human egg, the size of a dot, yet the largest single cell in the body, is fertilized and the DNA strands combine,
- God creates a Soul and a new Person is formed - and there is a message in their inbox.
- The message is an invitation from God, saying, I am your Creator, I love you and I created you in love. I want you to know me and to accept my love. I want you to spend eternity with you.
- We can accept or not.
- Some people ignore the invitation and some people accept it.
- If we accept it, we bring bread and wine, the work of our hands, to the Wedding Feast.
- The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity brings the Lamb
- Yes, (at this Mass) we are at the Last Supper.
- Through the instrumentality of the priest and the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus becomes physically present on this Altar.
- When the priest and the deacon raise up the Sacred Species, Our Lord raises His Head on the Cross and says, "It is finished."
- We are on Calvary. The sacrifice is consummated.

Do we accept the King's Invitation?

- We can be too busy to attend, or just attend sometimes, it's our decision.

Who is this person without the wedding garment?

- The wedding garment is our baptismal garment
- These verses pertain to the heavenly banquet because people, without a Baptismal garment, are certainly welcome to come to this Mass.
- It doesn't apply to a dirty Baptismal garment for many here have dirty garments.
- Although, the Church does provide a laundrymat on Saturday afternoons to clean them.
- This unwanted guest at the Heavenly Banquet would have been someone with a Baptismal garment, saying they are Catholic, but their Baptismal garment is stained red from their participation in the death of thousands of innocent lives.

This Mass is the Last Supper, the Mass is Calvary, and the Mass is the **Wedding Feast**

In every culture in the world, and throughout history, a Wedding or Marriage celebration is not complete until the marriage is consummated.

- You know what that is!
- When a wedding is consummated, the Groom gives Himself to the bride - and the bride receives the Groom.
- Do you notice how similar the words "consummation" and "Communion" are?
- This Wedding Feast isn't over until the wedding is consummated in Holy Communion.
- Jesus is the Groom, the One Groom, there is Only one Jesus.
- There us only one bride, the Mystical Body.

WE are the Mystical Body, WE are the bride. Not as individuals, but together.

- ★ One bride, one groom, one Queen Mother of the Groom.
- ★ One Mother of the Mystical Body. One Love, one Holy Spirit coursing through our veins.
- ★ Yet, we are not the only ones invited to this Wedding Banquet.
- ★ All the Angels and Saints are also invited.
- ★ And they are here: Our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, St. John the Baptist, the Apostles, the Martyrs and all our family saints.
- ★ Our departed loved ones in heaven are here.
- ★ We cannot, we cannot, be closer to them than at Communion time.
- ★ We are closer to them than we were before they passed away.

How much Respect do we have for the Mass and Holy Communion?

- ★ Do we put Mass attendance above everything except sickness?

What if there was Only One Mass every ten years, in only one place! What would we do to prepare?

- ★ All the fund raising, the reservations and preparation.
- ★ How much anticipation.
- ★ How would we attend, how would we participate, how much would we relive the experience.

Or, what if you were in Hospice and your family comes to takes you out for one last Mass?

- ★ Would you treat that Mass any differently.

Take a minute and ask yourself the question.

- ★ Do we put Mass attendance above everything except sickness?
- ★ Do we attend with reverence and full, active, participation?
- ★ Do we respect each other as members of the Same Body?