

Fr. Rudy's Reflections

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 15, 2023

Many Are Called, Few Are Chosen

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

As I have mentioned before, we live in a hurried world where time never stands still, yet there are still moments, perhaps few and far between, when we stop in our tracks and reflect on questions such as these: Do I *live* my faith and not just go through the motions? Do I prioritize the truly important things of life? Am I honoring our Lord in all I do and say? Am I clothed in the faith? *And with great curiosity of soul*, am I okay?

On this Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear in Matthew's Gospel that Jesus is once again relating a parable that, in this instance, is disturbing, complex, and perhaps suitable only for those who are able to weave through its theological context. It involves a king's invitation to a wedding banquet for his son that is rejected by all his guests, his attempts to persuade them to attend, the mistreatment of his servants, his violent punishment to those who deny him, and the expulsion of an invited guest whose clothing was deemed inappropriate.

This parable carries profound lessons about God's invitation for all people to enter into the Kingdom, our response, and the importance of living faithful lives. Regardless of our past or social standing, God invites us all to the banquet of joy, yet often for a myriad of reasons, humanity rejects God outright. Whether it is outright defiance or the preoccupation with worldly pursuits, some of us cannot accept God in our lives. Yet, God will never give up on us; God continues to reach out and extend grace and love.

This parable takes a dramatic turn at its end when the wedding guest is repudiated because he is without proper attire suitable for this joyous occasion. *God does require more than our mere acknowledgment of our faith*. In accepting God's invitation, we must transform our lives, in our hearts and in our actions. We must live our faith clothed in a way that reflects God's light and extend it to others.

Living faithfully means embodying the virtues of "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (Colossians 3: 12). These virtues are like the attire we wear to the wedding feast. They should distinguish us as followers of Christ and reflect God's love to the world. Just as the improperly dressed guest is called out, our faith should be authentic and life-affirming.

The parable concludes with the famous line: "For many are invited, but few are chosen." This underscores the importance of not taking God's invitation lightly. When the invitation is extended to all, the choice to accept the faith fully in one's life is a personal one. God desires all to come to him, but not all will respond with the necessary commitment and transformation of heart.

May we heed the call, accept the invitation, and live our faith all the days of our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Father Rudy