



Father Joseph's Outline for the 11th Sunday of Luke

Luke 14:16-24 - Sunday 12/14/2008

“Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ (Luke 14: 21)

The excuses have different meanings and applications!

- The man who bought a piece of ground represents the Gentiles. The piece of ground represents the devotion of people to the earthly wealth over God.
- The man who bought five oxen represents the people of God, who had the five books of the Law and preferred them over God. The five oxen also represent the devotion of man to the limitation of his five senses over God.
- The man who used the excuse of marriage represents those who follow the heretical or wrong teaching about God. Marriage in this case also represents those who are devoted to the pleasures of the flesh more than their devotion to God.
- Those who are in the streets and lanes represent the Gentiles, who did not have the holy books and prophecies, as well as those who had the holy books.
- The command of the master to compel the maimed, lame, and blind to come in represents the acceptance and entrance of those who were outside the Church into the Church.

The rejection of the Children of the Kingdom

- The meaning of the gesture of the Master to send his servants to remind the invitees with the banquet implies that they have already received a prior invitation. This, in turn, means all human beings are invited to the Kingdom of God.
- The anger of the Master represents the expulsion of those who were baptized and have become members of the Church but have grown cold in regard to their baptism and deviated from their calling.
- The children of the kingdom are excluded, not at the Master's command, but rather through their own doing by refusing or ignoring the invitation.

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Jesus' sayings about the invitees of the Kingdom

- “And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness.” (Matthew 8:11-12)
- “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’” (Matthew 22:8-9)

Points to Ponder

1. It is stated very clearly in the holy Gospels on many occasions that **Jesus Christ has come for the salvation of the world**: “An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins’” (Matthew 1:20-21).
2. Jesus also stated very clearly that **entering the kingdom of heaven takes a positive response** to His calling: “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20).
3. **Entering the kingdom of heaven takes concentrated effort**: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).
4. Jesus emphasized that **entering the kingdom of heaven starts with a deep desire to worship the true God**. Man cannot worship two gods (whatever that “god” might be—wealth, recognition, pleasure, reason, etc); he either will hate one and love the other, or be loyal to one and despise the other (Matthew 6: 24).
- 5.

Important: the invitation to the kingdom of heaven is a total commitment to the one true God. It is hard work to discover and understand that He is the true wealth of life and the source of all life. Any other treasure, regardless of how valuable it might be in the eyes of the people, is worthless in comparison to Him.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

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Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true treasure of Life and You are the source of all Life. I ask You, with a repenting heart, to reveal to me Your holy will, to help me do only what is pleasing to You. Do not let me go astray, O Lord. Do not let the delusion of the world cloud my vision. Do not let me lose sight of You, the only True God, along with Your Eternal Father, and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit. Amen.

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