

## **The Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 9 October 2011**

Echoing the words of the disciple Peter---Lord it is good to be here. We are here in response to the invitation to come to the feast. Here all are loved unconditionally. Each of us a child of God, created in the image of God. This past week, at our Journey in Faith kick off David Fremo reminded us we were created in the image and likeness of God. Here is a clip from God's Trombones which was shown at the Journey in Faith sessions ---

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kl9smMM07N8>

What I like about the clip is the various faces that appear on the created human. God's finger prints on each of us. Look around today and you see the image of God. Look around as you go about your activities today and you will see the image of God.

Like in today's parable, some ignore the invitation to come to the feast. Some say they encounter God in nature. Others don't come because they see those in attendance as hypocrites. Still others counter that mass is boring, they get nothing out of it. All who come as hypocrites. Still others it is not entertaining or I get nothing out of it.

Yes, we can worship God in a variety of places. The church is a group of sinners we are not always consistent in living our faith. God continues to invite us to the banquet. As Christians we are called into community. We are to mirror the Blessed Trinity. The Trinity a community of Love which goes forth. So to we are to gather to be formed by God's word and sent forth to touch the lives of others.

There is a disturbing part to the parable today. The king is surprised to see a guest not in a wedding garment. What was he expecting when he had his servants invite whomever they found on the roads? But he has him thrown out. Some scripture scholars note that in this time period a king giving a party would have had garments available for those who came. This guest made a choice not to select a garment. Other scholars note that a wedding feast was several days long and any guest would have had the time to obtain proper dress. This man refused to do so. All biblical scholars suggest that the wedding garment for Matthew represented the baptismal garment and a commitment to follow Jesus. In other words, it is not enough just to respond.

Some times as we come to mass we almost dare God to touch our lives, our minds and hearts are closed. A couple was court ordered to take parent classes. At the first class that made it quite clear that they didn't need classes and people are over reacting about their son. They did their best to disrupt every session. In the evaluation of each class, they simply wrote and an

hour and half of hell. Since they were closed to the process they gained no insights into parenting.

As we come to the Eucharist it is important to open ourselves to God. With the palm of our hands held in a reception position we need to say, "Here I am Lord, your servant is listening." To ask God to help you put aside your distractions. Then through the prayers, readings, hymns, Christ's body and blood and silence God's Spirit will touch your heart. In this time of community prayer we continue the process of being in the likeness of God. To be in God's likeness is to be aware of those in need of love, forgiveness, comfort and welcome. We are to be God's hands in this world.

Nourished again around this table today may we acclaim the gospel as we go forth this week.