

Twenty Eighth Sunday Year A. 15th October 2023. The universality of Gods' Love

Experience has proven that God is Good all the time, he freely extended His Goodness to all people. As we heard in the first reading: He wants us to share in His Love and Friendship: He wants us to be His guests at His banquet to share the rich food and the choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure. We often reject His invitation, rather we prefer to carry out our personal activities which gives us temporary joy, which is why we engage in all sorts of war to eliminate human beings from their legitimate homes; we rejected God's invitation because we have no time for other things apart from time to make money and improve in our business. Though our businesses are important that is why God has given them to us, he did not in any way stop us from pursuing our goals at the right time and with good intentions. However, God wants us to have something more significant than our business or money. Since he did not stop us from meeting our lives goals, He wants us to be obedience to His calling as His children to receive the graces he has for us and most importantly the salvation of our souls. The most striking thing is the fact that some who ignore the invitation of the king laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. They should have stop at not going but to kill the servants of the king is another disaster. That is why the king was angry and sent troops to destroy their city. That is happening today in our world, and more are going to happen sooner or later.

The gospel told us that the king who offers his invitation to the Jews who were the chosen people sees their refusal as the rejection of God's gratuitous grace, and the king extended widely the invitation to people of all races, both good and bad to come to the banquet. His invitation is universal, it is to all those who did not accept him from the beginning. The servants were able to gather the people according to the instruction. When he went to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.

Yes, everyone was invited to salvation like you and I, the door is open to all who wishes to enter, but before that there will be an examination of conscience, to see if we are feet to enter the door. Saint Augustine, when commenting on this parable, said: "So what is this wedding garment? The apostle Paul tells us: 'What we are aiming at... is the love that springs from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith' (1 Timothy 1:5). That is the wedding garment. Paul is not talking about just any kind of love, for we often see dishonest people loving others. If you and I have this wedding garment, then this banquet is for us. If not, the master would bind our hands and feet and we would be cast into the darkness outside where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

Jesus' parable makes clear that, whatever one's past actions may have been, the indispensable condition is to wear the wedding garment, that is, to have our soul clean and a repentant heart, to embrace a way of life that gives testimony to love for God and neighbor. Christ always offer us his invitation at the Eucharistic table and today he will still invite us; before we jump into receiving the Eucharist, careful examination of conscience is required, we must not be like the man who sneak to enter without the wedding garment. St. Paul said "Let us examine ourselves, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the Body eats and drinks judgment upon self" (*1 Cor 11:28-29*).

Is it a difficult task to love genuinely, to repent of our sins and humble ourselves acknowledge that we are not worthy? St. Paul in our second reading said, I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

Peace,

Fr. JINGBE Simon