

# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



**October 11, 2020 // Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time // Lectionary: 142 // Gospel MT 22:1-14 OR 22:1-10**

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."

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**Spiritual Reflection:** How often do we come to the Wedding Feast but on our terms? Assuming that the man was given a wedding garment to wear but refused to wear it does God have a right to throw him out? Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: "God is not a God of the emotions but the God of truth." I believe he is trying to stress that God will in the end not tolerate excuses because He has invited us into His home and has given us everything we need. If we choose to still try to get our way, we will be the ones left frustrated. God will not let us get away with things just because He loves us.

**Spiritual Questions:**

1. Why do you think the man refused to put on a wedding garment?
2. Who are all the people who show in gratitude?
3. Why is hell a place of eternal frustration?
4. Why does God want his banquet filled?
5. What happens to those who reject God in the parable? In the real life? And why?