



## A Reflection for Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Readings - Philippians 4. 1-9 & Matthew 22. 1-14

*Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. For many are called, but few are chosen.'*

The parable describes a King who excitedly invites those he knows and cares for to share in the celebration of his son's wedding. Those who are invited are not so enthusiastic about the impending nuptials. In fact the invited go to great lengths to refuse the King's invitation. Even to the point of resorting to extreme violence in their refusal to attend.

The love the King has for his son goes further than those who were on the original guest list and invitations are extended to everyone in the kingdom. For those with little or no knowledge of the King and his son, they are all invited. They willingly accept and are delighted to attend. It will be a transformative experience.

A guest who originally rejected the invitation is in attendance but is there out of the wrong motives and is promptly ejected as they give themselves away.

God's invitation is most gracious for all are invited, both good and bad. But just because all are invited does not mean that if someone is in attendance for the wrong motives that they will be accepted. There are definite expectations of the guests. Righteous conduct being one.

The invitation to Communion from The Book of Common Prayer poetically describes this.

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

The parable is the most wonderful invitation that God makes to all. It is an invitation that can be rejected. We are free to choose. We are invited to be in relation with a God of love for all of eternity.

Thank you for reading and please keep safe.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Adrian's music choice for Trinity 18. Communion: Christ be with me - Rawsthorne  
Psalm: 23. Organ: Fanfare - Whitlock*

*If you are able, join me for a service of holy communion from The Priory.  
Live streaming from 10.55am. Please go to the Cartmel Priory Facebook page.*

**It has been a most difficult year in so many ways. We as a Priory community were shocked to hear the news concerning a past vicar of this place. If you have been affected in any way, I would like to invite you to a service of 'Lamentation and Hope' on Wednesday 14th October at 8.00pm in The Priory (adhering to Covid protocols). The service will be centred around The Lord's Table as we support one another and pray together. The service will be live streamed using the Facebook App.**

*Image - The Parable of the Unworthy Wedding Guest by Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn*