

An Experience that Changed My Life

19 Pentecost A – Oct 10/11, 2020

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Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2“The dominion of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ 5But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ 10Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. 13Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Identify a relationship, experience, learning, insight, interaction that changed your life..... *(the change of clothes indicates we are changed due to responding to God’s invitation; no change shows a desire to take/enjoy without understanding the depth of love with which it is offered)*

How did you come to respond with a yes to that invitation, opportunity, person, event? *(Some reject the premise of God, Faith, Church or have such ideas that those things are not of interest or are boring/irrelevant. How have those things become important to you? Who/how has that been made possible for you?)*

Specifically, how did that change your life? How are you different? What did you learn about the World, God, Yourself? *(God expresses the invitation to the great banquet of life freely and graciously but not without awareness – understanding that truly enjoying the banquet means that your life WILL by necessity be changed. So what insights to life have you gained?)*

How is that chapter/experience continuing to shape your life today?

**If this has been so important in your life.....to whom have you told this story?
Whom have you gone out of your way to invite to the banquet of insight/wisdom
and growing up that you have been privileged to enjoy?**

**How has your understanding of church changed over the years re: its purpose,
its practices, its life-changing impact? No longer a hobby that receives the
leftovers of your life, energy, money, etc....when did your faith become shaping
of everyday and when did it become important enough to share with those you
love?**