



HOMILY 28TH SUNDAY
OF ORDINARY TIME
BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

ASST. BY DEACON BOB BAKER

We just heard from the 1st reading from the book of Isiah “On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples.”

This veil is the veil of the ignorance about God and what he wants for us!

This is what Pope Francis describes the joy of this encounter saying, “How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the

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midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles!”

It is something like if you were given the choice of living in Motel 6 or the Ritz free of charge.

In other words, destroying this veil gives **meaning** to life and the beyond.

If our goals and dreams are all about things of this life. Then the veil of ignorance as not been removed!

The second dimension of the promise depicted in the scene is that God will remove all reproach. No more guilt or fear of punishment. The love of God which overcome death, also overcomes sin. God can heal every breach of relationship. The parable also teaches us that the garment of salvation is provided to those who follow Jesus. God invites us to attend the eternal banquet in honor of his son. To **not** wear the provided wedding garment is a rebellious act; it implies that we do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, at least in our actions.

The guest not wearing a wedding garment (Matt 22:13) represents the old life we bring into the presence of the Lord. The wedding banquet signifies God's grace—the freely given and undeserved invitation to enter the Kingdom of heaven. God's open invitation is for all, and especially for sinners.

As sinners at this banquet, we can will look at our past not with shame but as a revelation of the depth of the love of God who reached out to us at our worst and transforms us into all we can be.

Isiah and Pope Francis invite us to dream, to contemplate, to try to imagine what it is that God offers and hopes for us. The more we imagine it, the more we will be able to put it into practice.

Although we come to the feast with selfish desires, unrepentant sin, anger and bitterness against our neighbor in order to remain in the kingdom **we need a change of heart and a spirit of obedience.**

Yes, God loves us just the way we are but loves us too much to leave us that way. No one can encounter Jesus Christ as Lord and remain the same.

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Remember every saint has a past and every sinner has a future. (pause)

Paul's 2nd letter to the Philemon's when he said (and I am paraphrasing)

I have known both weakness and strength. But I can do all things in him who strengthened me. In other words, Paul is reminding us never give up.

This is where the Gospel made me think if we had a choice to stay at a Motel 6 or the Ritz with all its extras free of charge, which one would we accept?

Is the parable asking us to consider **not** so much how we will be punished by refusing the invitation but what blessings and benefits will we miss by our refusal to enjoy all the benefits of the Ritz?

God desires that all be saved and with a generous outpouring of grace.

Like the king in this parable he commands his servants. Go and Invite everyone they meet to the heavenly banquet.

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As I was listening to the responsorial Psalm 23, one of the most beloved and often quoted verses in the Bible. It speaks of God's care, leading and refreshments and climaxes with promise of a victory banquet (you spread the table before me in the site of my foes—v5).

I couldn't help but recall visiting a nursing home where many residents suffered from dementia and usually could not remember what they eat or my name, or not much else of anything. But if I would began reciting "The Lord is my shepherd" they would join in.

Let us learn from those in the nursing home and dwell on the last part of Psalm 23: Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. (pause)

So, let's keep our sites on what God has in store for us and not so much at the presence, but for the future.

And yes, he does want us to be happy here on earth, but because of our human sinfulness we fall short!!!!

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That is why we have been given the Sacrament of reconciliation!!

REMEMBER SAINTS HAVE A PAST SINERS HAVE A FUTURE!!

AMEN!!!!!!