

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25:6-10a
Ps 23:1-6
Philippians 4:12-14,19-20
Matthew 22:1-14

Monday October 12
Gal 4:22-24,26-27,31--5:1
Ps 113:1b-7
Luke 11:29-32

Tuesday October 13
Galatians 5:1-6
Ps 119:41,43-45,47-48
Luke 11:37-41

Wednesday October 14
Galatians 5:18-25
Ps 1:1-4,6
Luke 11:42-46

Thursday October 15
St. Teresa of Avila
Ephesians 1:1-10
Ps 98:1-6
Luke 11:47-54

Friday October 16
St. Margaret M Alacoque
Ephesians 1:11-14
Ps 33:1-2,4-5,12-13
Luke 12:1-7

Saturday October 17
St. Ignatius of Antioch
Ephesians 1:15-23
Ps 8:2-7
Luke 12:8-12

In today's Gospel, Jesus addresses the problem of fakers: people who try to win his friendship by being religious and showing up for the banquet without entering into a genuine relationship with God.

You know the type: They are friendly as long as it works to their own advantage. They do good deeds but only when it's convenient. They perform Catholic rituals perfectly during Mass but at home they don't even take time to pray. Their faith is so shallow that distractions easily keep them away from Mass. When their relationship with you requires sacrifice or repentance, they abandon you.

Genuine Christians are identified by the presence of God's love within them radiating outward and blessing others, especially when it's not easy to love.

Jesus shows us in today's parable how to handle the fakers. The invitation to join the party is open to everyone, but when people want only the fun of being a friend of God and they ignore the hard work of sharing his love with others, God sets up boundaries against them.

Think of the people you've invited to your banquet table, i.e., into a healthy, Godly relationship, but they've tried to reshape it according to their unhealthiness and immorality. We should love them but not within harmful



circumstances. We should do our own part to make the relationship healthy, but when others do not do their part, they've already abandoned the relationship.

God asks us to carry the cross of doing everything

possible to invite them to repentance, conversion, and healing. However, healthy boundaries need to remain in place, and when our efforts are fruitless, eventually God says it's time to let go and move on.

And always, we're to go back out into the byroads to find those who genuinely value Godly friendships.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How many Godly, healthy friendships do you really have?
2. Where can you go to find more people who want to be in a holy, Christ-centered, faith-building relationship with you?
3. What makes a friendship truly good?
4. How do you know when the time has come to say no to an unhealthy, unholy relationship?
5. How have you handled it?
6. Where have you gone to find support and healing and growth?