

Holy Week Devotions

The Great Feast by Rev. Tianna Durbin

Matthew 22: 1-14—The Parable of the Great Feast

As we navigate this Holy Week—in the life of the Church and in our personal journeys of faith—we encounter this reading from Matthew 22. At first glance, the parable feels a little daunting, especially in light of the cross and resurrection, and the grace that is so freely offered to us. What is Jesus really saying in this story? I offer a few reflections for today.

This parable invites us to examine our hearts. The kingdom of heaven, Jesus says, is like a great feast—a picture of God’s extravagant grace. The table is overflowing with mercy, and the invitation goes out not just to the “worthy,” but to the *willing*.

You see, anyone can show up on Easter morning. But have we been *transformed* by grace? That is the heart question. Have we truly clothed ourselves with Christ?

This story challenges us to live differently because of the grace we have received through Jesus Christ. When we claim Jesus as Lord of our lives, we stop giving priority to other idols—success, comfort, busyness, or pride. Jesus calls us to a genuine faith, rooted in love and service. And this season invites us to examine our hearts and clear away whatever stands in the way.

Imagine you're at work or school, and a coworker or classmate is consistently difficult—negative, frustrating, maybe even unkind. Being “clothed in Christ” doesn’t mean you have to be their best friend. But it might mean choosing patience instead of anger. It might mean offering a kind word when it would be easier to avoid them or criticize them. That is grace in action. That is transformation.

So, where are you on your faith journey this week? Is it time for a deep dive into Bible study? Is it time to serve in a ministry that shows love to our neighbors? Is it time to invite someone to the banquet? Because here’s the good news: Jesus has already invited all of us to the Great Feast. He’s not asking for perfection—He’s asking for your heart. He’s calling you to the table, and He longs for your life to be anchored in Him.

Prayer

God of grace and invitation, thank you for preparing a place for me at your table. Help me to respond with a willing heart, to be changed by your presence, and to invite others to come and taste your goodness. Amen.