

Today, we are celebrating the 19th Sunday after Pentecost. And if you are not wearing the wedding robe today, you are in the wrong place. That's what the gospel is telling us, that there was a person that was invited to a banquet and that person didn't have the wedding robe.

Now, in order to understand why this is happening, we have to get the account of the gospel today. And as Jesus did before, once again, he's saying a parable and he compared the kingdom of God to a king that is offering a wedding banquet to his son. And there was a group of people that were invited. Of course, you can imagine that the group of people invited for the king's son wedding, it has to be important people and a special and a specific group of people.

So they received the invitation the first invitation that they received and the guests didn't pay attention to the invitation. And they mistreated the messengers. The king decided to send another group, bigger than the first one. And they brought not only the invitation, but they brought the description about what was prepared for them. So maybe, just to call their attention, but still, nothing happened, and they didn't pay attention, but it's not only that they didn't pay attention, but they kill the messengers.

They looked for excuses not to come to the wedding and the king as the parable said, was enraged. And I can imagine how frustrated and how upset he could be. So he sent his troop to destroy the city and kill the murderers. That's how upset the king was. And then he decided, "Well, the people that I want to invite, definitely they're not worth it to receive the invitation." So he tell the slaves, "Go to the streets, to the main street of the city and invite everybody."

And they were, as the parable said, they were collecting people, good and bad, and they make the hall full of people. So up to that moment, is it with him? It's nice in that the king changed his mind and focused on the people that are everywhere, and they can be part of the feast. But then something happened. And what happened is that the king picked on somebody, and as that person framed, "You are not wearing the wedding robe." And he ordered the slave to tie his hands and feet and throw him in the dark. And it's just like, "How come?"

It was an invitation, but I can say maybe they were forced, they were forced to come to the feast because they can order that. So, they didn't have time to prepare themselves. They didn't have time to get the right wedding robe. And it's not fair that it is happening. How we can relate to our life and what is happened in this moment, in the world, to what the gospel is telling us today?

How we can relate it to us? And I can tell you, we are living in a pandemic time. COVID-19 has changed everything. Everything that we even thought that we cannot do it, we're doing it.

We have to stop. We have to stop everything, business, sports, getting together. We have to take care of ourselves in a way that we will live in fear, because we don't want to be affected by COVID-19.

We saw the news and thousands of people have died because COVID-19, but it's still there is people that are saying, "This is not right. This is not happening. This is something that a government or a person is making us to suffer."

Some people say we don't have to pay attention to this, and they don't follow any protocol, but some people are following the instructions and are following the protocol. What did we living in this moment can be related to that parable that Jesus is sending us today?

And the thing is, we all invite to follow the protocol. We all are invited to take care of ourselves and the people around us, but not everybody is paying attention to that. And we heard people that say that "I'm a Christian. And I believe in God, and I believe in the Holy Spirit", but they are not doing things for other people. They're not helping other people. They're not taking care, except that for many people increase their selfishness. And they just taking care of themselves. It's just me, I and mine, that is working in so many people that at this moment.

So, the thing is we all part of this situation and we need to see what we can do for to help other people, where we need to do to take care of ourselves. And especially, we need to know what we need to do in order to keep our relationship with God. If God is sending us invitations to do something, we have to take care of that. And we have to pay attention of what we are doing.

Maybe it's not only be confined to our home and confined to our daily work things. A lot of people are doing work from home. And it really changes the way that we were living. But there is a people that cannot accept that. And guess what, we all invited to be part of the kingdom of God. We all invite to be part of a situation that is going to end is in something good, is going to end in our salvation. But everything that we do, everything that we follow, every protocol that we follow, has to be focused on what's going to happen at the end of our life?

And what is going to happen, it has to be related in the way that we receive the invitation from God, guiding by us to be part of salvation, to be part of the body of Christ, to be followers of Christ. How is the way that we are doing it? It would really help us to understand that at the end, we are going to gain something good. And that good part is the salvation.

It doesn't matter if we are going to get infected or not. It doesn't matter if we we're taking care of ourselves and following all the protocols. What matters is what kind of relationship we have with Jesus at this moment. And if we die, which we're going to do at some time, are we going to be saved?

Are we going to enjoy Jesus' company the rest of our life, or because we're not following or really following the protocols in following Jesus Christ, we are going to end bad? We're going to end in the eternal suffering, instead of the eternal life? It is really good that the Bible compares the life after death, the eternal life as a banquet, it's not the first time that the kingdom of life is compared to a banquet.

There are descriptions in the Bible about the banquet that we are going to have when we enjoy God's company forever. And this is something that we need to pay attention at this moment. At this moment that we have time to think about how our relationship with God is. And when we keep deep in our relationship with God, then we start wearing the garment, the right garment that we need to wear.

Then there will be times that we're going to be choose. And we're going to be invited several times, in order for us to change our mind. God will send all kinds of invitations to us, as many times as he decides to do. But the ultimate decision is from us. See, we saw during the

parable that there were four times, four times that God sent invitations to people.

And even in the final invitation that everybody was called in good and bad people were together in the room. Still, there was the opportunity to really be there because we were having a good relationship with God, following his instructions, or we just were part of the group, but didn't pay attention about what we really need to do.

In our churches, there's things that we didn't expect to do. I'm coming from a church that has been since March 22nd doing Zoom meetings. And we haven't had the opportunity to get back because fear, because we don't know certainly what we need to do, but sometimes we are going to make a decision. Sometimes we are going to get back together and every Sunday we pray that by the time that we feel that we are safe, we're going to return to church and have communion.

And do you know, is something that is happening all over the world in different countries and in different churches and different denominations, but it's happening. So may the invitation that God is doing today is well-received. May the invitation that God is sending to each one of us to follow Him, to follow the protocol, to follow the instructions, make us to decide that in God, we can do everything. In Jesus Christ, we can do everything. And with the Holy Spirit, we can do everything.

In Jesus's name, Amen.