

Gospel Reflection by Michael Brown, worship leader

The parable of the wedding banquet is about God's call for all to come to him. The Gospel of Matthew was written for the Jewish community in the first century AD. It allegorizes how through history God's chosen people rejected God's call through the prophets and how that call has been extended to all people. All of us are invited to the wedding banquet; good and bad, Jew and Gentile, rich and poor. But it is up to us how we respond to this invitation. Do we show up at all? Do we reject the invitation, or worse still abuse those sent to invite us? Do we show up unprepared for the wedding banquet, improperly attired, making a mockery of the invitation?

All are called but few are chosen. It's up to us to decide how we respond. What is the correct way to respond to this invitation from God? In the lesson from St. Paul's letter to the Phillipians assigned to this Gospel lesson St. Paul points us to how to respond. Rejoice in the Lord always. Keep your mind on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, and pleasing. Keep on doing the things that St. Paul, and Christ, taught. They taught that loving God and your neighbor are the most important things we can do, the greatest of the commandments. God's wedding banquet is an allegory for the beloved community that we are called to bring about in this life on earth, where all of God's children love and are loved as God loves us.