

INTRO – Readings 1st & Ps ENGLISH 2nd&Gospel SPANISH

DO YOU LIKE A PARTY? - JC likes a party (CANA) Yes, God loves a celebration

In 1st Reading today ISAIAH prophecies during the Babylonian exile – they are still captive

But the message is about the party they'll have when the Messiah comes

In 2nd Readin PHIL – St. Paul's in jail, he says he's known hunger and abundance

But now he's thanking PHIL for the gifts they've sent

In Gospel JC explains what the KOG will be like

But He uses a wedding banquet to do it – God loves a party so LET US PRAY

ISAIAH – Israel is still in captivity – Babylon has conquered them and carried them away

But God is preparing them to return with a prophecy about life when Messiah comes.

NB – it says He will provide for ALL people. A feast – rich food, choice wine, juicy rich food

P A R T Y! - Now note this little gem:

“He'll provide for ALL people” – Messiah isn't just for Jews – ALL celebrate

Israel is still in bondage, slaves in a foreign land

BUT God's message is that ALL will be blessed – INCLUDING US!

It says “Behold our God to whom we look to save us”

Who brings salvation? JC How? Forgiveness of sin – **Bounty/blessing**

So we rejoice with PS23

I shall dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life

and PS23 is all about how the Shepherd takes care of us – GOOD NEWS INDEED

It continues in PHIL – tailor made for us in jail -

Paul writes PHIL to thank them for the gifts sent to him while he's in jail – abundance!

“I've known hunger, I've known abundance” it ends “God will provide whatever you need”

Finally we have this Gospel – another party – but with a lesson. Jesus says the KOG is like THIS →

A King is having a wedding feast & nobody comes

In fact – guests ignore the invite, make excuses, then beat/kill the messengers

So He invites e v e r y b o d y else → Why is this like KOG?

NB God made heaven and earth

Planted Adam and Eve in the garden – and they sin (reject Him)

God makes Israel His chosen people

They reject the prophets, disobey the commandments, (reject Him)

So He sends His Son – (reject Him)

|Greeks & Romans

So He invites e v e r y b o d y else -----

|French & Italians

AND THEY PARTY

|Blacks, whites, Latinos

(WE are invited too)

Watch this - When I read this Gospel I don't understand 1 thing – the problem of no wedding garment.

It's not his fault – he was minding his own business - pulled in from the roadside

The custom at this time – the King provided wedding garments!

AND HE REFUSED TO WEAR IT. **All are invited BUT we choose to wear it**

So what's our wedding garment?

We are invited to the King's banquet table & Jesus provides the wedding garment

- We say salvation comes through forgiveness of sin – forgiveness was won on the cross.

The garment gets us into the banquet is the blood of Jesus

How have Christians celebrated with Jesus for 2000 years?

- Banquet Table – What's the meal – Body and Blood of Jesus - Celebrating Victory over Death

“When God Comes Close” – @ Incarnation in Bethlehem – God comes so close, he becomes us.

As we go forward – here's a new thought - Eucharist as a never-ending Bethlehem –

Liturgy by liturgy – all the world over – Bethlehem happens again & again

God, becoming physically present, right here on our altar!

This is God's banquet, where we come – saved – redeemed – covered by the blood

That's the wedding garment freely given by Christ AND We are invited to put it on

Because, like Paul said in PHIL:

“God will supply whatever I need in accord with the glorious richness of Christ”