

20th Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year B

I. Today's readings are clearly related to the Eucharist

1st Reading:

Wisdom's Heavenly Banquet

Part of Proverbs where Folly has a Banquet – Wisdom has a Banquet

We're free to choose which to accept

This is Wisdom's Invitation

II. Gospel – Jesus invites us to a different banquet

- Where HE is the meal

- HARD SAYING

- Think of it this way:

There is a bookcase filled with the greatest books

If the books remain on the shelf – they remain external to me

But if I take it down and read it

The stories come alive in me – excitement, joy, fascinated, ...

The story sticks to me, I can recall it

NOW, WHENEVER I WANT, I CAN RECALL THE STORY

Once it was outside of me, now it's inside me and I can feed on it.

So it is with Jesus

As long as He's a figure in a book, He is external

But when Jesus enters our hearts we can feed upon the life he gives.

When Jesus said to eat His flesh and drink His blood He was inviting us to feed our hearts and souls on Him, to revitalize ourselves with Him.

BUT JOHN MEANT MORE

John was recalling the Last Supper. John was saying "If you want life, you must come and sit at table and eat the broken bread (as Christ's body was broken) and drink the poured out wine (as Christ's blood was poured out).

Intimate participation in HIM is the goal of HIS life, death and resurrection.

In Eucharist, the bread IS Jesus' body, the wine IS Jesus' blood.

BUT HERE IS A PEARL – John's Gospel has no account of the Last Supper.

For John, Eucharist goes beyond the Upper Room

Last Line: Ancestors ate bread from heaven and died, whoever eats this bread will live forever. JESUS IS NEW MANNAH

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