

Daily Homily

Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time, Friday

4 September 2020

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Jesus is the object of speculation and questions. They speculate why isn't he more like the Pharisees or John the Baptist in his religious devotions and piety? They question why he and his disciples don't do more, why don't they fast? Can you imagine asking Jesus, who is God, "Why don't you do more? Why don't you fast more? Like we do." I think the word "arrogant" comes to mind.

It must have been an eye-rolling, shake the head from side to side moment for Jesus.

What a great response though: *Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?*

This image comes up again and again in Sacred Scripture. Jesus is a new relationship. He is, as the Irish would say, "a thin place." This means that Jesus is a place and a person where heaven and earth meet. In Jesus divinity has married humanity, therefore, all of humanity can be divinized as well. We see this in the secret subtleties of the Mass. When the priest pours a bit of water into the wine at the time of *Preparation of the Altar and Gifts*, the priest's silent prayer is this... "By the mingling of this water and wine may we come to share in your divinity, you who humbled himself to share in our humanity." Jesus calls himself the Bridegroom. Who is His bride? The one he is pursuing and courting, the one he loves and seeks, the one he wants to invest time and energy, the one he wants to bring to good and bring to heaven, the one he wants to live for and die for? His bride is ... us ... little, old us ... the Church. God wants to marry us. God is not only "in" love with us, "God is love" for us.

With this relationship, all else is secondary, including food...so maybe some fasting does happen. But with this kind of love, He is the first thought of our day and last thought of the night. With this, we can't help but to be joyful, happy, bright and cheerful. We must celebrate even. It's what we do with a marriage. We can't help but to smile big. The One has found us, and we have been found by the One.

How is God courting you and calling you to this divine marriage? Do you see God's tender love given to you in a bouquet of sunrises and sunsets, in the laughter of children, in the warmth of home, in breeze rustled leaves, in silence that settles in peace? Do you see God's all embrace of you in the face of friends, in the challenge of a day, in the unsolicited compliments of people, in the humorous failures and flaws of our attempts at anything?

God, the Bridegroom, is pursuing you... seeking your hand... God is love for you... wants to marry you...
WOW!