

Sermon Topic: The Banquet by Pastor Lorna Khoo

Sermon Text: Luke 14:15-34

You are invited! Good food, VIPs: anticipation (for the food, friends, meeting the VIP) Yet...

1. Issue of Focus: The focus is to honour the host and celebrate with him. God is the host on our Sunday gathering and our worship.

Qn: *Is my focus in worship about Him (making time for Him, pleasing Him, honouring Him) or about me (my time, my convenience, my needs)?*

2. Issue of Priorities of Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Isaiah 25, Matt 9:15, 25:1. John 3:29. Rev 21:2,9. We will always make time for what we think are important.

Instead of judging others during service for the things they do, we should instead examine ourselves and our thoughts during service. Is our body here but our minds are drifting elsewhere (work, money, relationships).

Qn: *During worship service: Am I present in body but not in mind and heart?*

3. Issue of Time: **Instant obedience or when I feel like it?** Cf Psalm 119:60

Sometimes when God ask us to do something, we will take our time and respond when we want to, to our convenience. Excuses we give: I will pray about it. Note: God's call is not always at our convenience.

4. God's Heart is Good and Generous. Cf Song of Songs 2:4, Luke 11:11-12.

The invitation shows God's generous hospitality. We know that God exists but we have trouble believing God is good in our experiences. We are tempted sometimes to think of God as trickster rather than father. But Scripture reminds us that when we ask for fish, he won't give us a snake.

Qn: *Is my image of God that of a generous and good Father or is it of Loki the trickster?*

5. The invitation: Who is included? Cf John 9:2, Matt 9:10-11. ALL. Cf Luke 13:29

Implications - to racism, class-ism. Holy Communion not as merely a 'special meal' but as a norm for other meals...inclusiveness in the way we live: making sure that we treat others as God treats them at the Table.

Qn: *How do you treat your helpers? The poor? Do they share the same table? Do we make sure that all have enough food on their tables?*

Conclusion

The Banquet- for YOU. Urged with passion to come. Not worthy? Just as we are-come! Cf 1 Cor 6:9-11. The church is not a museum for saints but a hospital for sinners on the way to recovery. Focus is not on worthiness but on willingness to change (cf Holy Communion). Open hands and receive: Not take and help oneself.

Qn: *Am I willing to come to Jesus?*