



## ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SERMON  
10-12-14

- I. Sister's distress with understanding the gospel.
  - a. Several rough ones last few weeks – wrestling with the kingdom of heaven
  - b. Matthew-prob after destruction 70ad.- anti-pharisees- loves Jesus, but not elect
- II. Setting the scene- the context  
Rich Mullins – Our God is an Awesome God lyrics
- III. The offer to dwell with God – to be in relationship with God – offered first to the elect/people of Israel/the chosen ones. They refuse, would rather live for themselves, even to the point of killing someone who preaches God's desires to them.
  - a. Disobedience evokes divine punishment. They are cast out of God's presence.
  - b. "The repentance of the common man is for his sins, the repentance of the elect, for their heedlessness. The elect are heedless
  - c. "Everyone, sooner or later, sits down to a banquet of consequences." RL Steveson
  - d. Life has choices – always choices, with consequences. Blame is not on God.
- IV. So then the kingdom invites the poor, the tax collectors and prostitutes, the unchosen ones. And they respond – they get it – they join in.
  - a. Except the individual without the wedding robe. He still was trying to live life on his own terms, as an individual, separate from others. You see, the wedding robe is offered at the door. All come in equally attired. All are invited to be clothed with God. He kept the relationship on his terms, refusing the hospitality. He also then lived separated from God, in other words – in hell.
- V. This story is about right now – not the future. The story is an invitation to a wonderful party that is heaven right now. We are invited to be cared for, fed, supplied with our needs, delighted in and delighted. We respond to the offered relationship with awe, with love, with mercy and grace.
- VI. The visual for me is what I witnessed this summer in Edinburgh. I was there for the Queen's Annual Garden Party.
  - a. The invitations go out using a lottery and everyone should get an invitation once in a lifetime.
  - b. People in their finery, the music, the festive air, the military guards at the gates, the fun, the response to having your turn to "dine" with the Queen.



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- VII. Like those folks in Edinburgh – the invitation is for now. The invitation is from an awesome God. Will we enter the party? It is our choice – but just think – you and I are invited. I love being invited. I will say yes.

Thanks be to God.