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23 Thursday

THURSDAY, Week 20 of Year

Judges 11: 29 -39

Ps 39: 5, 7 - 10

Matt. 22: 1 – 14

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. And it's been suggested that if Jesus was born into our modern world, He would be a movie-maker. But if you hear His stories and parables and metaphors, and listen to the details in them, you may well feel that no movie or picture could really capture it all. The liveliness and vitality of His storytelling and colourful images are richer and more powerful than one frozen picture or one movie-maker's vision of what He said. The word, here, is mightier than the image. It allows each listener make their own images and visualisations of things Jesus wanted to tell people about, things like the reign of God, the kingdom of God. What could these be compared with, to make them more understandable? No direct comparisons are possible, so Jesus' stories and examples and metaphors are necessarily "fuzzy": He's trying to capture our curiosity and imagination, expand our vision and understanding of God and His reality.

Many times Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to..." That's an invitation to open our minds and imagination. His chosen images are all simple things, but also evocative and deep.. They're not exact, parallel comparisons of details. Today's gospel has Jesus making a whole little story, with numerous details, out of a suggested comparison, a wedding feast. Can I think of other comparisons that might help me appreciate the reality of God's kingdom? In speaking with Him today, let me use my imagination, to be there with Him as Jesus invited me to do.

*Everything is ready: come to the wedding.*

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Word count: 271