

From March 29, 2009 Sermon...

"OTHER THINGS TO DO"

Since the beginning of time people have enjoyed a good story, and Jesus was the master storyteller. But, Jesus did not tell stories just to entertain or shock his audience. Each of His parables had a purpose. Jesus used unlikely characters, unusual and socially unacceptable behavior, and unexpected endings to engage his audience and to reveal the uniqueness of his message.

In the parable of the great banquet, a king has prepared a banquet for a large number of guests. But oddly enough, all of the guests refuse to attend. Then a general invitation is issued throughout the city to the poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame, for those in the streets to come and fill the empty banquet hall.

The people who assembled would not have been the kind of guests a great man usually invites to dine with him. In a more typical story about a banquet, a few of the invited guests might send their regrets and the host would then invite others of a similar social status to take their places. But here the Savior shows His kingdom will bring about a total reversal. **The invited are absent, and the uninvited are present.**

In the parable of the great banquet, Christ speaks to each of us. The kingdom of God is ready, the table has been prepared, and the invitations have gone out. We are challenged to change our attitude. We are challenged to change our conduct because God does not put us outside His presence – we do!

Will you come to the banquet,
or do you have
other things to do?

Be blessed. Clarice