

# THE FEAST

I would not have missed it for the world



Two things in life I truly enjoy: climbing the mountains and having a good meal. The first keeps me fit and the second makes me fat. While standing on the top I feel free and relax; my soul is at peace. On the other hand, eating delicious dishes in the company of family members and friends adds calories to my body and my soul. A table unites us. We serve each other and share our stories, thoughts, and ideas on life.

## Mountain and Food

The mountains played an important role in the life of Jesus. He often climbed the mountains to pray (Matt 14:23; Lk 6:12; Jn 6:15). Great events of

## Isaiah 25:6-10a

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well- aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day,

“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

### Phil 4:12-13, 19-20

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### Matt 22:1-14

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast."' But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

his life took place at the top of the mountains: naming of the twelve apostles (Mk 3:13), the giving of the New Law (Matt 5-7), the transfiguration (Mk 9:2), the crucifixion (Mk 15:22), and the ascension (Acts 1:11-12).

Jesus also loved to eat in the company of others. His enemies held it against him and spread the news that he was a "glutton and drunkard" (Matt 11:19). They could not see that during those meals salvation was taking place. During the wedding feast at Cana (John 2:1-12), Jesus "manifested his glory and his disciples believed in him" (Jn 2:11), by changing water into wine. Salvation entered the house of Zacchaeus, the tax collector, while he was dining with Jesus: "Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold" (Lk 19:8). During another meal at the house of a Pharisee, love and forgiveness met, when a sinful woman washed the feet of Jesus (Lk 7:36-50).

However, the loveliest story about a meal is recorded in the Gospel of John. Peter and other disciples were fishing the whole night and did not catch anything. In the morning they saw on the shore the risen Lord who asked about their labor and directed them to a big catch. Then, John writes: "When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread" (John 21:9). Jesus, the Lord, prepared a breakfast for them, an ordinary, poor fishermen.

### Wedding Feast

The kingdom of God is like a wedding feast. Wedding means a new beginning. Such a feast brings with it an atmosphere of joy and excitement. Being invited and not to participate is to miss the celebration. Coming to such a feast in casual clothes is to spoil the atmosphere. Yet, why so many of us decide to miss the celebration? Occupied with the things of time, we forget eternity. The things which are seen make us blind to the reality which cannot be seen. Focusing on making a living, we miss life with its thrills and joys.

Christianity is a joyous faith. There is no place for sadness, complains, or losing hope among those who accept the invitation. Yes, we will have moments of sorrow, difficulties, and trials, but they cannot be compared with what is prepared for us. Climbing a mountain requires effort, so does a preparation for a wedding. Yet, we should never forget what

**Matt 22:1-14**

"But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen.

awaits us at the end. Think for a moment about the joy of heaven. In his letter to the Church in Rome, Paul writes: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Rom 8:18). Then, to the faithful at Corinth he says: "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Cor 4:17).

Jesus knocks at the door of your life with this invitation, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" (Rev 3:20). As long as you live, the invitation is valid.

**Conclusion**

"On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples, a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined" (Is 25:6). We all are invited to join this feast. It is being prepared for "all peoples". There will be joy and all our needs will be met. I would not have missed this feast for the world. How about you? Will you accept the invitation? Will you go and "get" yourself the wedding dress?

**Dear Lord Jesus**

*I come to you now with humility and trust; I confess with my lips that you are Lord and Savior; I believe in my heart that you have risen and you are alive. Now I surrender my life to you.*

*Be my light in darkness; be my way in wilderness; be my life in death.*

*With you in my life I can move mountains and I can do even greater things. I love you and thank you for everything. Amen*

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***May God bless all who remember us in prayer and support our ministry.***

*New Life Asia Team*