

Matthew 22:1-14

The Common English Bible

¹Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. ³He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn’t want to come. ⁴Again he sent other servants and said to them, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Look, the meal is all prepared. I’ve butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything’s ready. Come to the wedding party!’” ⁵But they paid no attention and went away - some to their fields, others to their businesses. ⁶The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them. ⁷“The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren’t worthy. ⁹Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.’ ¹⁰“Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. ¹¹Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn’t wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ But he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to his servants, ‘Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.’ ¹⁴“Many people are invited, but few people are chosen.”

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23

The Common English Bible

¹Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love endures forever.

²Who could possibly repeat all of the Lord’s mighty acts or publicly recount all his praise?

³The people who uphold justice, who always do what is right, are truly happy!

⁴Remember me, Lord, with the favor you show your people. Visit me with your saving help

⁵so I can experience the good things your chosen ones experience, so I can rejoice in the joy of your nation, so I can praise along with your possession.

⁶We have sinned - right along with our ancestors.

We’ve done what is wrong. We’ve acted wickedly.

¹⁹They made a calf at Horeb, bowing down to a metal idol.

²⁰They traded their glorious God for an image of a bull that eats grass.

²¹They forgot the God who saved them - the one who had done great things in Egypt, ²²wondrous works in the land of Ham, awesome deeds at the Reed Sea.

²³So God determined that he would destroy them - except for the fact that Moses, his chosen one, stood in the way, right in front of him, and turned God’s destructive anger away.

Philippians 4:1-9

The Common English Bible

¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters whom I love and miss, who are my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord. Loved ones, ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to come to an agreement in the Lord. ³Yes, and I'm also asking you, loyal friend, to help these women who have struggled together with me in the ministry of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the scroll of life. ⁴Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! ⁵Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. ⁶Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. ⁷Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. ⁸From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. ⁹Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.