**THURSDAY AUGUST 18 – XX WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them and killed them.**

**Whoever wants to know what the truths in which the disciple of Jesus must keep his new nature of Christian are, must read his life with the eyes of the Gospel. Since today one does not want the Gospel as our unique and only eyes, we lack the true science and the perfect knowledge. Without the eyes of the Gospel, we dwell in the both spiritual and moral obscurity and darkness. With the eyes of the Gospel, we shall know the most pure truth of our creation and the known and lived truth will make us free. Thus Jesus says in the Gospel according to John: “If you remain in my Word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” They answered him: “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say “You will become free?” Jesus answered them “Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free” (Jn 8,31-36). There is no freedom for the one who refuses the Word of Jesus or does not obey it with faithfulness. Only the lived Gospel delivers us from darkness.**

**Here is the truth that makes every man free. The true freedom begins for us when we accept the invitation the Lord turns to us. The invitation is to the conversion and to the faith in the Gospel. The conversion is to Christ Jesus. Faith is in his Word. One is converted when one leaves all that was our religious life until that moment and accepts to become disciples of Jesus. Today the Gospel reveals us that all the guests are slaves and prisoners of their things. Indeed, the invitation of the king was refused by some people in name of their farms and their business. Others in their evil and wickedness take the servants, mistreat them, kill them. Here is the great slavery of the mind and of the heart: one’s own fields and affairs are worthier than the possession of the truth and of the freedom. It is also the slavery of the wickedness and of evil. There is no reason or no motivation to kill the guests of the king. They did nothing evil. Here is what Jesus says about his Person: “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but as it is they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me also hates my Father. If I had not done works among them that no one else ever did, they would not have sin, but as it is, they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But in order that the word written in their law might be fulfilled “They hated me without cause.” (Jn 15.22-25). No one should forget that the Gospel is also this passage: “The king was enraged and sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burnt their city.” It is Gospel for it is Word of Jesus. Even this Word is truth for us. There is no salvation for the one who refuses the invitation of the Lord.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 22,1-14**

**Jesus again in reply spoke to them in parables, saying “The kingdom of heaven is may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feats for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying “Tell those invited: “Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready: come to my feast.” Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burnt their city. Then he said to his servants “The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whoever you find. The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. He said to him “My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment? But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants “Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Many are invited but few are chosen.”**

**However, once one has accepted the invitation, it is necessary to observe the rules that are connatural with the invitation. They are not added rules, but connatural. Conversion is accepting the invitation. Faith is living according to the Word. Conversion and life according to the Word must be one only thing. One might never make two things, in the same way as being disciple of Jesus, denying oneself, taking one’s own cross and following Jesus are one only thing. Where is the slavery of our mind today? It is in thinking and also in believing that one can be disciple of Christ Jesus without wearing the garment of the Gospel. Jesus has put this truth in the conclusion of the Sermon of the Mountain: “Not everyone who says to me “Lord, Lord” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day “Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name? Then I will declare to them solemnly “I never knew you. Depart from me you evildoers” (Mt 7.21-23). No one be deluded. The one who presents himself with the garment of the Gospel worn enter the eternal kingdom. Mother of God come to our rescue.**