

# Thursday 20th in Ordinary Time

**Gospel text (Mt 22,1-14): Jesus began to address the chief priests and elders of the people, once more using parables: «This story throws light on the kingdom of heaven. A king celebrated the wedding of his son. He sent his servants to call the invited guests to the wedding feast (...). The king came in to see those who were at table, and he noticed a man not wearing the festal garment. So he said to him: ‘Friend, how did you get in without the wedding garment?’ But the man remained silent. So the king said to his servants: ‘Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the dark where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth’ (...).».**

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## *God's punishment*

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we hear the Lord saying a word that, right off the bat, does not seem to "fit" with His merciful Love: "punishment". But His punishment is not like ours, in the sense that God imposes fines and likes to harm us. The expression "God's punishment" points toward my having mistaken the right track I should follow and to that ulterior consequences may ensue for following these false tracks and leaving the real life.

In the divine language, punishment is the situation in which human beings enter when we move away from our true essence, or when we do not respect someone else's dignity, and turn our backs from the truth... Then, the individual takes advantage of his freedom, yes, but he also maltreats it. Through this false path, man tramples what he has been created for, by destroying himself.

—O Lord, You are my Creator, Who has come to us leaving Your footprint on our Earth. Let me see Your footprints in my way.