The parable of the King's wedding feast for his son is a common motif to symbolize the fulfillment of heaven. As such it should be read as an allegory with the exaggeration and inconsistencies typically found in Jesus' parables that are meant, not so much to be taken literally, as to provoke the listener to reflect and look for the deeper meaning. The story of the wedding banquet in the Gospel reflects aspects of the lavish provision supplied by the Lord in the reading from Isaiah where not only are God's children well provided for but that they will be protected from their enemies and restored to their original joy.

The universal invitation is clear – all are welcome and even invited to share in the feast. As Jesus came for all, so too does his telling of the parable of the wedding banquet emphasize that all (the many) are invited, but sadly, many do not respond to the invitation. This may be due in part to their ignorance or disinterest of a call that is universal. We may not be attracted to join in a feast where everyone is welcome – don't we sometimes like to be part of an exclusive group.
This may be what is meant by the "veil" reference in Isaiah. Perhaps when this veil is destroyed we will realize that we are all destined to bask in God's glory. Then we can stop worrying about whether or not we are good enough and just accept God's gracious invitation.

Once we realize that we are all invited, and that inclusion of everyone is OK, then why not join in the feast? Just like the guests in the Gospel parable we often are too preoccupied with our daily activities and careers. Too long have we worked to build our own security net and belonging systems, that when an opportunity to participate in the larger enterprise of God's kingdom we ignore what we judge to be unimportant or unattractive? In the rush to preserve our life, we lose it. We fear that if we drop our agenda, we will lose the riches we seek here on earth. If only the veil could be lifted so that we could see that to lose our life in this world is to gain eternity. If we would only take a chance and come to the banquet and participate fully in the feast, then maybe everything would change. Perhaps this is the point of coming to this banquet of the Mass. Have we come to celebrate and to fully engage, or are we thinking more of what we plan to do once we leave? If this is true then maybe this will explain the early departures today.

When we come to this feast, do we come dressed in the wedding garment? We may have been baptized and dressed for that celebration, but have we continued our life in Christ in an on-going way? Have we clothed ourselves in the good works of the Christian life, or has the business of the world distracted us from our original zeal? These are all good questions to ask ourselves as we continue to strive to build the Kingdom in this world and in the next.