

Sermon: What Are you wearing for dinner?

Matthew 22:1-14

Here is the context and the story of the parable. Jesus is painting a picture of the rejection by the nation of Israel. He warns them of their certain doom, which was accomplished in 70 AD where over a million Jews were wiped off the planet. He is also telling them of His intention to fill the Father's house with people other than themselves. The king in the parable sends his servants out to find other guests to come to the wedding celebration. As they gather themselves together, the king notices a man in the company who does not have on a wedding garment. This man is cast out of the wedding celebration.

When Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah, He turned to the Gentiles. Jesus plans on filling His Heaven (House) with those who have a personal relationship with Him by invitation only.

The bible tells us that when believers will gather together there in Heaven, that there will be a marriage. There will be a time of celebration known as the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb", Rev. 19:7-9. the Bible doesn't say a lot about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. One thing, however, it does say in Verse 8 that the people involved in this heavenly celebration will be dressed in pure, white garments. It is these garments that I want to focus on this morning.

It seems to me that when it comes time for the wedding, it seems from the Bible, you must be dressed properly, or you will not be admitted.

You need to be absolutely certain that you will be clothed in the proper attire when you reach the end of your earthly journey. Today, I would like to preach around this question, "**What are you wearing to dinner?**" As I do, I want you to listen to the Word of God and let the Lord speak to your heart. If you find that you are clothed in the rags of your sin or the flimsy cloths of your own self-righteousness, I want you to respond to the Lord and allow Him to have His way in your life. Allow me to share four observations from this passage as we think about the question, "**What are you wearing to dinner?**"

1 . "The Realm"

Matthew 22:1-14 (NLT)

1. Jesus also told them other parables. He said, ² "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son....."

He is talking a Realm and that Realm is the Kingdom. The Kingdom is **the spiritual realm over which God reigns as king.**

This realm must be understood here on earth so you can appreciate where you are going. In this realm you will experience how God's love is unmerited and the only real requirement is that you say, "I do". Nothing you can do in this earthly realm will make him love you more than he does right now.

Think about what a kingdom looks like in relation to your reality. It has borders, laws, a definable population, culture. It looks like righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost! That means you are at peace with God and the people are around you and **YOU ARE AT PEACE WITH YOURSELF.** You are so full of joy that the word conflict is not even in your vocabulary.

You are arrested with the Love of the father. You are immersed and marinated with Love for one another with no strings attached.

I was so moved when I read how the late prophet Bob Jones died for a moment, and the Lord asked him, "Did you learn to love, Bob?"

Righteousness is the power of God to make everything right! So...this trait is in you. You have the ability through the Holy Spirit to make things right when you show up.

This Kingdom has a King! He prepared a great wedding/banquet for his son

AHA MOMENT: Colossians 1:16-17 (NKJV)

*"...All things were created through Him and **for Him.** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."* **YOU EXIST FOR JESUS!!**

Psalms 2:8 (NKJV)

"Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession."

2. "The Request"

Matthew 22:3 (NKJV)

³When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come!

Who am I to reject his request? Many are called but few are chosen! Why? It is our fault not his! We are products of our choices. There are costly ramifications for rejecting his request!

So God had to start over, building a people of faith. He called Abraham the father of faith and initiated a relationship with humanity by grace. And through him God would bless the whole world

Genesis 15:6 (NKJV)

*“And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”
Everything Abraham did was by faith and obedience to the call.*

And so it is with all of humanity throughout History. Why do we question, doubt and debate?

Romans 4:13-16 (NLT)

Clearly, God’s promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God’s law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith.¹⁴ If God’s promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. ¹⁵ For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!) ¹⁶ So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham’s. For Abraham is the father of all who believe.

3. “The Rejection”

Matthew 22:4-6 (NLT)

“So he sent other servants to tell them, ‘The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!’ ⁵ But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. ⁶ Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them.

Remember when the Israelites came out of Egypt and Moses goes to the top of the mountain and God wants to meet with the people? Moses comes down and the people said, “you go talk to God on our behalf” The people rejected God and basically created their own religion of comfort.

From Exodus 19 to the end, Moses climbed up Mount Sinai 8 times to meet with the Lord.

On the mountain God tells Moses that He is offering a [covenant](#) to the people of Israel: if they will keep the covenant, God will make them His own “treasured possession” and “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:5–6).

God is constantly and consistently sending invitations to partner with him in relationship

Scene 4. “The Ready Table”

Matthew 22:4

⁴ “So he sent other servants to tell them, ‘The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!’

You don’t need to provide your own cattle, oxen, or sacrifice.

God told the Israelites “I’m not into the sacrifice stuff”

Hosea 6:6 (NKJV)

“For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”

Isaiah 1:11 (NLT)

“What makes you think I want all your sacrifices?” says the Lord. “I am sick of your burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fattened cattle. I get no pleasure from the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.”

God has his own lamb, oxen, sacrifice and fatted calf. My table is ready.

Matthew 22:5 (NKJV)

⁵ But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business.

These represent ignoring the call, being busy with their own *works*, rejecting God’s provision.

5. “The Response”

Matthew 22:7-10 (NLT)

“The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. ⁸ And he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is

ready, and the guests I invited aren't worthy of the honor. ⁹ Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.' ¹⁰ So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests.

Matthew 23:37 New Living Translation

Jesus Grieves over Jerusalem ³⁷ "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me.

Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT)

Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'^[e] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

God took the Gospel outside of Abraham's natural family, sharing the invite with the whole Gentile world! (His family was always those of faith!)

Acts 28:25-28 (NKJV)

"...Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"

Happily ever after? There's a twist:

Psalms 34:8 (NKJV)

"Taste and see that the Lord is good..!"

6. "The Required Clothes"

Matthew 22:11-13 (NLT)

But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who **wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding.**¹² 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' But the man had no reply. ¹³ Then the king said to his aides, 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

God's grace has made all that he is and has available to all. But he does insist that when you are enlightened, you partake of it on the basis of the

recognition of the merits and righteousness of Jesus Christ, God's fattened calf, and not your own.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (NLT) ⁴ For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— ⁶ and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

Hebrews 10:26-27 (NLT)

²⁶ Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. ²⁷ There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies

If you sin the unforgivable sin of rejecting Holy Spirit's testimony of Jesus, you're stuck, there's nothing left. Clothing matters!

Isaiah 64:6

"For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."

Zechariah 3:4

"He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, "Remove the filthy garments from him." Again he said to him, "See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes."

Isaiah 61:10 (ESV)

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

Romans 13:14 (NLT)

"Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires."

THE AVAILABILITY OF THE GARMENT

A. V. 10a **It Is Available to All** - The king sent his servants into the highways, literally the "wide places or plazas", to gather together all that they found. He wasn't concerned about their character, about their past, about their social standing, about their abilities, about their popularity, or any other consideration. He just wanted whoever would to come to the wedding celebration.

This is a picture of what the Lord has done for us in His plan of salvation. When the Lord formulated His plan of Salvation, He prepared a way that was open to all men, from all walks of life. God's plan is available to whoever will come - Rom. 10:13; Rev. 22:17; John 7:37-38. Simply stated, the plan of salvation and the garment of righteousness is available to anyone who desires it.

B. V. 9 It **Is Available by Invitation** - Notice that the king sent out his servants to invite people to the wedding. Again, this pictures salvation. While anyone can be saved by the grace of God, before anyone can be saved, they must be called by the Lord, John 6:44. You can only be saved when Holy Spirit is dealing with your heart.

I. The Availability of The Garment

II. V. 10b THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GARMENT

It was common in weddings involving the wealthy to provide each guest with a white wedding garment. When the guests accepted the invitation, they would be given their garment, and they would then wear it to the wedding when the day arrived. Again, what a picture of salvation!

The day a person accepts the Lord's invitation to Jesus and salvation, that person receives a robe of righteousness. That is, their sins are forever forgiven and they are justified by faith. God sees them as He sees His Son Jesus and they are considered to be righteous. Paul referred to this idea in Philippians 3:8-9. The wedding garment is given to every believer at the instant of conversion and it is worn by every believer all the time. There are four truths about this garment that we need to consider this morning.)

A. **It Is Received by Faith** - The way to get the wedding garment is by simple faith. It is given to those who place their faith in Jesus alone for salvation, Eph. 2:8-9. No one will ever get their wedding garment by being religious, or by being good. It will be given only when a sinner places his faith in the atoning work of Christ, Rom. 10:9-10.

B. It Is Totally Free - This garment cannot be purchased at any price. It is received only when faith in the Gospel message has been exercised. You see, it matters not how much money or resources a person has. It does not matter how little one has. All that matters is faith! When a person receives Jesus as Savior, God gives them the wedding garment. Salvation cannot be purchased; it is the gift of God! (Ill. Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Rom. 3:24.)

C. It Is A Proper Fit -The wedding garment given by the Lord is a perfect fit every time! It is tailor made! It fits the young and the old, the big and the little, the rich and the poor, the short and the tall. God's wedding garment fits every life perfectly.

D. It Is Approved by The Father - Notice, the king came in and saw a man without the wedding garment. He was forced out and rejected by the king. The garment was a requirement to be in the presence of the king and to attend the wedding.

The same is true when it comes to the garment of salvation. To be without one is to face the Heavenly Father unprepared. However, every person clothed in the garment of His Son's righteousness will be accepted by the Father in Heaven. Isn't it interesting that religion won't do it, good works won't do it, being good won't do it, being kind won't do it? The only thing that will clothe you in such a way as to make you pleasing to the Lord is for you to receive Him by faith.

It has been said that the clothes make the man. How we are dressed when we leave this world will determine where we are seated in eternity - smoking or non-smoking! The question is this, will you be approved by the Father? You can be, but only if you are clothed in the glorious righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ - Rom. 4:23-25. What kind of garments are you wearing this morning?

I. The Availability of The Garment

II. The Acceptance of The Garment

III. V. 11 THE ABILITY OF THE GARMENT

A. It Changes One's Appearance - (Ill. In our modern weddings, the bride does her best to stand out from everyone else at the wedding. However, in ancient times, everyone looked the same at the wedding. They all wore the same type of garments and they were all identically dressed.)

So it is with salvation! When a person comes to Jesus to be saved, He changes them completely: **externally, internally and eternally!**

The transformation is so great that even the Lord never sees that person the same ever again. He looks at them through the filter of the blood of Jesus and declares them to be justified and righteous in His sight. When they are wearing the wedding garment, they are clean in the sight of the Lord.

B. It Cover's One's Appearance - When these people were found, probably some were dirty, others may have been beggars dressed in rags, some may have been wealthy and were dressed in all the finery that money could buy. But, whatever their appearance when they were called, when they put on the wedding garment, it covered everything! Gone was the filth, the ugliness and the rags. All that could be seen was the white, cleanness of the wedding garment.

The Bible tells us that our own righteousness is nothing but "filthy rags", Isa. 64:4. Sadly, many are blind to their true condition, Rev. 3:17. However, when a person places his/her faith in Jesus for salvation, they are covered by His righteousness and all the filth, all the rags, all the ugliness of their sins is forever covered by the blood of Jesus and by the grace of God. Thank God, when we are saved, we are seen as being clean in the sight of God! Not by our works, not by our goodness, but by the grace of Almighty God. How are you dressed this morning?

IV. V. 12-14 **THE ABSENCE OF THE GARMENT**

After the guests arrived for the wedding, the king saw a man who had no wedding garment. This event produced 3 great reactions that need to be considered this morning. Please understand that if you try to go to Heaven without a wedding garment, these things will come to pass in your life as well!

A. V. 12 Will Produce A Showdown - When the king saw the man without a garment, he confronted him about it.

My friends, everyone in this room needs to remember that there will come a day when every person will face God one on one!. Every person who lived and died without a wedding garment will have to stand before the Lord and give account for their life and deeds._

B. V. 12b Will Produce Shock - When the man saw that he was not hidden from the king, the Bible says that he was speechless! That is, he made no excuses for his condition and he offered no apologies. The bottom line is that when he was confronted with the truth, there wasn't much that he could say about his condition.

C. V. 13 Will Produce Shame - The man in the parable was cast out into outer darkness. Every person who leaves this world clothed in their sins and not in

the righteousness of Jesus Christ will spend eternity apart from the Lord who died for them and made a way for their salvation.

It is an awful place, but it is the destination for every lost soul this morning - Psa. 9:17; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Thes. 1:8-9. There will be no greater shame than being forever cast away from the presence of the Lord. What will happen when you die?

7. "The Regaled"

Matthew 22:14 (NKJV)

"For many are called, but few are chosen." Everyone is invited.

Romans 10:13

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 3:16 (NKJV)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

But Few are chosen...

Ephesians 1:11 (NIV)

"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will..."

Ephesians 1:4-6 (NKJV)

"...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..."

Summary

The King says, "come!" Come and drink the water he gives, and you will never thirst again. Eat the living bread that came down from heaven, and you will live forever.

1 Corinthians 5:7b-8 (NKJV)

"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

The King's Banquet is open, his banner over us is love, and today he is saying, "Come!"

Song of Solomon 2:4 "He brought me to his banqueting table and his banner over me is love."