

DO YOU HAVE ON A WEDDING GARMENT?

Text:

Matthew 22:1-14:

1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

2 The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

The Wedding is Ready!

9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

14 For many are called, but few are chosen.



In this parable, we see the king desired to royally honor his son who had taken unto himself a bride. There was a wedding banquet of celebration. The preparations were extraordinary. The decorations were elaborate. The meal was the best. He invited a large number of guests, for after all, a wedding is incomplete without them.

Surely, he might expect a houseful at his palace, but the disappointment most unspeakable cut into the heart of the king. More so, He had invited the friends because of his own liberality. They were bidden to come, but were not forced by taxation or by threats of infliction of pain. But they received the invitation with scorn and laughter. They even treated shamefully the servants who bore the welcome — they even slew them!

The parable is very plain. The great king is our Heavenly Father who loves His only begotten Son. He delights to honor Him with glory and blessing. We hear Peter speaking of a sample of this glory and honor in:



Acts 3:13-15:

13 the God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus; Whom ye delivered up . . .

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

15 And killed the Prince of Life, Whom God hath raised from the dead;

This precious Son Who left the glories of Heaven, Who gave Himself a ransom for us all, Who has washed us from our sins in His own Blood, Who has made us unto our God as kings and priests, and with Whom we shall reign on the earth, this One must have only the best when He takes His Bride, the Church, into union with Himself.

This is such a feast that even angels must only look upon, for neither cherubim nor seraphim can be fit guests for this Son.

Proverbs 8:31b: My delights were with the sons of men.

Think of it! That He should choose us to be His friends, His joy and crown.

One would think that all who hear this blessed Gospel call would flock towards the marriage feast with eagerness. But, this is not the case.

The servants of God are treated shamefully. Many prophets are slain; many message bearers are abused. But the servants are encouraged by the words of their master:

Matthew 22:8-9:

⁸ The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

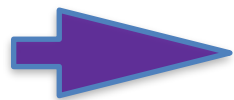
⁹ Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.



So, out they go again; with the divine call, they urge.

1 Corinthians 9:16: For though I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel!

Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.



If you do not believe, you will not come. There is a perilous end for those who reject the invitation. This happened to the Jews, to whom the Gospel was first given:

Luke 14:18a: And they all with one consent began to make excuse.

The Foolishness of excuse-making has not ceased.

Sorrowfully, God's servants come to Him. They tell the sad news of those who refuse the Gospel, refuse to be born-again, and refuse to be made ready for the Marriage. They tell Him the message is laughed at.

Can we feel worse than Jesus did when He said in:

John 5:37-40:

37 And the Father Himself, which hath sent Me, hath borne witness of Me. Ye have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape.

38 And ye have not His Word abiding in you: for whom He hath sent, Him ye believe not.

39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they (the scriptures) are they which testify of Me.

40 And ye will not come to Me, that ye might have Life.

The Gospel shows to the servants of God the true nature of people's hearts. Inward corruption and self-righteousness causes the children of Satan to hate God's servants, because of whom we have in us. They hate Him. They would do to us what was done to Him if it were not for the punishment involved. This glorious news of a free wedding banquet with Jesus, the Bridegroom, as preached by the apostles, brought them unmerciful and shameful treatment.

The last of the Gospel calls are going out now. Christ is not going to be dishonored by not having wedding guests. Thank God for the encouraging words of *Matthew 22:10: and the wedding was furnished with guests.*

The vacant seats are being filled. Souls are being saved. Not all refuse pardon through the precious Blood of Jesus; not everyone chooses to be damned, but rather to be reconciled to God through Jesus.

Many hope to be saved without Christ, by their good deeds; but you cannot have the wedding garment, as costly as it is and priceless, without meeting Jesus.

God's call, now, is to everyone.

You cannot have the wedding garment, as costly as it is and priceless, without meeting Jesus.

Revelation 22:17: And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst Come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Matthew 11:28: Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

John 3:16b: . . . whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Mark 16:15: Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.

Go into the highways, byways, streets, lanes, slums, and bring in the blind, the maimed. This shows the picture of what sin has



wrought upon the bodies of lost humanity. Still, God loves you all and tells me to compel you to come to Jesus. We must stay at the job until the last soul has been reached.

Turning again to the parable in **Matthew 22** where there are guests, multitudes which no man can number. They are present and are more grateful than words can tell, for they knew not that it could be so wonderful. They had received the Savior and His Gospel, which qualified them to be married to Christ. It is this spiritual union of *"the twain shall be one"* which shows the closeness of the love ties between Christ and us.

In the following scripture, Jesus complains, in tones of deepest sorrow, when that union is severed.

Revelation 2:4: Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

In the Gospel call, none are excluded except those who exclude themselves. The Bride says, "Come", inviting, calling people to the Wedding Feast. The more the call goes out, the more the Wedding will be furnished. For there is yet room. How much room? None can tell. We know not the hour when the Master will rise and close the door of His great House. Heaven has ample capacity and a hearty welcome for all who will come God's way, through Christ.

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Ephesians 2:7: That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

It will take ages for God to make us fully realize the fullness and depth of His loving provisions for our soul's eternal home.

There is room for all classes. Never mind fixing yourself up to come, come as you are, and God will do that for you. Only He can provide the wedding garment. Nothing on earth is fit to wear in God's Mansion. The most moral person on earth, the best dressed person, all will look like a tramp in His parlor. Isaiah declares:

Only He can provide the wedding garment.

Isaiah 64:6: . . . all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;

But God has made provision in His only Son.

Acts 4:12: Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

The Gospel of Christ is a leveling agent. It provides entrance into eternal life to the lowest and the morally highest on exactly the same terms.

As you had to clothe yourself this morning, awakening to a new day, God is speaking to you saying: "What will it be like - when in eternity you wake up to find yourself naked? Wherein shall you clothe yourselves? I, the God of Heaven and Earth, warned you in My Word about being naked and without the Wedding Garment":

Revelation 3:17-18:

17 Because thou sayest, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;" and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Revelation 16:15: Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Matthew 22:11: And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

God warns us to be clothed when standing before Him at that Day.

The Lord God asked Adam in **Genesis 3:11:**

“Who told thee thou was naked?”

A terrible mystery settles around these Scriptures. They are all connected to each other.



What is the conclusion? Who is he without the Wedding Garment?

Look how the king's discernment is recorded in the text **Matthew 22:11:**

He saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment.

One man is there without the wedding garment. The king's eye is, at once, fixed upon him. Not one can escape the penetrating eye of the Lord.

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Wherever you are, if you are unspiritual, unclothed, the King will spy you out. If you are making a profession of religion but do not have a clean heart, God shall unmask you so you will not have a word to say to Him in your own defense.

I have seen hypocrites wither, unable to withstand a message, under the preaching the Spirit gave us. They went where they found an easier place of worship. The Gospel separates, and only as the Lord is present in our midst will we discern the false and the true believers in Christ.

What is the wedding garment?

Notice, it is called a wedding garment, suitable therefore, for a Marriage Feast. Everybody does not have on the wedding garment, but he who wears it has put it on because he is a guest. You know the wedding guest at once by his attire. The attire is all the same because it comes from the King. It blotted out all self-consciousness, all self-seeking after recognition, and any distractions from the Honored Son.

But there is one who does not have on the wedding garment. He has no part in the celebration, although he came. If you discover what the wedding garment really is, you will discover if you are wearing it or not.

The comparative distinction between those who have the garment and those who do not is only to be discovered by the same measures used in:

- Matthew 13 - ***The Parable of the Tares***
- The story of Ishmael and his attitude toward Isaac is a figure.
- Going a step further into **Matthew 25:31–32**, we see the sheep and goats separated by the Master.
- You can tell the Cains from the Abels, as soon as sacrifice is the subject.

The power of the Blood of Christ is applied to the heart. The saints of the Lord are Clothed in white, on their heads are crowns of gold.

Revelation 4:4: And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

Revelation 6:11: And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Revelation 7:9: After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the Throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Revelation 7:13-14:

¹³ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of Great Tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:8:

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

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