

Parable---Wedding Clothes

Weddings are special events and the clothes must be exactly precise and correct especially for the bride and groom. Generally, the wedding guests also dress for the special occasion and wear clothes befitting of the marriage ceremony. Jesus tells a parable of the wedding feast at Matthew 22 and like the other parables gives us insight into the kingdom of heaven as the story pertains to the wedding garments. God, the King, is preparing a great wedding banquet for his son, Jesus, the Christ. The Lamb, the groom, is going to marry his bride, the Church. The entire world since creation has been invited but many have paid no attention to the invitation—they have gone to attend their “field” or their “business” and given no serious thought to the greatest marriage of all time. Another invitation is now extended to the common people in the streets. People from every kind of background respond and the wedding hall is now filled with guests to capacity and each one is dressed in the wedding garment right for the occasion.

One man is singled out, however, in this parable. The King comes in the wedding hall to see the guests and finds one man not wearing wedding clothes. “How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?”, the King inquires. We are told the man was “speechless” and could not give an answer to the King. Attendants are instructed to bind the man and cast him out of the wedding hall into the darkness where there is “weeping and gnashing of teeth”. Jesus then ends the story with “For many are invited but few are chosen.”

John the baptizer was clothed with camel’s hair and animal skin and his prelude to the wedding was to “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” Mark 1. Jesus was clothed once in a purple robe and a crown of thorns and his prelude to the wedding was to “Come unto me, all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.” Mark 11. Clothed with the very likeness of Christ is to be man’s centered objective on earth. We are in this tent now, we groan and are burdened wishing to not be unclothed but clothed in our heavenly dwelling— 2Cor 5.4. Christ Jesus issues a final plea to the world to have our wedding garments on: “Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and

remains clothed so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed...and... “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” Rev 16.15, 19.9
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