

THE WEDDING GARMENT

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
The Wedding Garment
Text: Matthew 22:8

Prayer

Let's pray., Lord God, we bless your name and worship you. We ask that as we continue the study today, teach us yourself, in Jesus Christ name, amen.

Bible Text: Matthew 22:8

Matt.22.8 - Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Study

The Lord Jesus Christ continued with His parable about the kingdom of God, saying the king sent out servants, stating that the wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Looking at this carefully, we can see that the Jews were the first to be invited to the feast, but because they rejected the gospel, just like the Jews, many have proved themselves to be unworthy, for they reject the message of salvation, and this has positioned them for judgment. **Matthew 22:9 KJV** Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

This instruction seems strange: "go invite as many as you find," no matter who they are, be it kings, princes, slaves, poor, rich men and women, adults and children. Just go and find them, enter the streets, even if they are beggars, bring them here, for my hall must be filled. This points to the offer of salvation to the Gentiles when the Jews rejected it. Therefore, it is now open to those who are afar, those who were not initially invited to the

feast but are now called from every nation and kindred to feast at the table of the gospel.

Romans 11:11 KJV I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Matthew 22:10 KJV 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.

Now the instruction has been carried out. When the instruction was given, it did not state what kind of people should be invited into the hall, so both bad and good people were brought in. This is the same way it is today. God has sent His ministers to invite people to the gospel. As they preach, both bad and good people will come. That is, both the genuine ones and the hypocrites would come. They may not be able to recognize them because they are busy carrying out the instructions given to them. We must preach to those who are seen as bad and also to those whom we believe to be good, for God is the one who judges and sees the heart of all men. So that none would claim ignorance of the king's invitation to the gospel.

The Lord wants His feast to be filled with guests, but Satan does not want it. **Matthew 22:11 KJV** And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man who had not on a wedding garment. Though the hall was filled up to the satisfaction of the king, **BUT** when He came to see His guests, He saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

The gospel call was made, and many came to the feast, but one did not have what it takes to remain in the feast, which is a garment. This is not an ordinary feast, but a special feast, the wedding of the king's son, as such a particular garment must be worn.

Anyone not with the garment makes himself unfit for the entire feast. This is a caution to the hypocrite who, by the virtue of associating themselves with the great company of the true professors of the faith, finds themselves in their midst without the garment of righteousness. The servants only obeyed the King and could not differentiate the guests from one another, for the tares must grow with the wheat until harvest. **Matthew 13:30 KJV** *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.* The good and bad must first be brought together, but the king himself will separate them.

Are you following me carefully?

The king enters the hall, and the first thing he notices is the man without a wedding garment. Though the man had escaped the scrutinizing eyes of the servants, he could not escape that of the king because he is all-seeing and all-knowing. He can see through the hearts of the most pretentious hypocrites. Those who are hypocrites now in the church cannot hide from the eyes of the Almighty God. They are easily recognized and will be separated, as a farmer recognizes sheep from goats and separates them. **Matthew 22:12 KJV** *And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.* Now the king speaks politely, as if to make the man think his hypocrisy has been seen, for he presents himself as a friend. That is how it is for many who present themselves as Christ's friends but are, in fact, His enemies.

"How did you come in here without a wedding garment?" This is a straightforward question, though it was the king who instructed his servants to bring everyone they saw on the

highways. But now the man was speechless and could not give an answer, despite the fact that he could have said it was the king's servants who brought him in. The reason for his speechlessness is simply because he knew he was to attend a royal wedding, yet he did not do what could have made him qualified for the wedding. He was truly invited, but he lacked preparation. Therefore, he could not stand on the grounds of his invitation to dress nonchalantly to the wedding of such a great king's son. No amount of words could justify him, so he better remained speechless.

In the same way, many are called to the feast of the gospel, but many are not prepared. This is why many are in the church based on a general invitation but lack the garment of righteousness. Currently, they are among the saints and cannot be easily differentiated from others. Immediately, a man hears the gospel and comes to Christ genuinely, not hypocritically, he is justified and clothed with the garment of righteousness. **Revelation 19:8 KJV** 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. It would therefore become pitiful to associate with the saints, and at the end be sifted out as chaff when the King finally comes to see His guests, because one is not putting on a wedding garment. We must observe that this man was not naked; he was putting on the garment of hypocrisy or a show of religion, but void of true religion and devotion to God.

Are you still with me please?

You have been invited to the wedding. Do you have a wedding garment, which is the righteousness God gives to those who truly repent? Living a riotous life outside the will of God shows how prepared you are, yet you sit in the midst of saints, and no one can easily tell of your hypocrisy. You live anyhow outside the

church but pretend to be Christ-like among the believers. Though your hypocrisy may not be noticed now, when the king finally comes to see his guests, He will easily spot you and separate you, for He cannot be deceived. Many call you a man of God or a woman of God, but you know that the reverse is the case because you are not genuinely saved and are pretending. You do not have the garment of righteousness, which is the wedding garment, at all. It is very dangerous.

There are other sets of people who will also be separated when the king comes to see His guests. They are those who do not keep their garments, though they are saved, yet they are careless. **Revelation 16:15 KJV** Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. These people have the wedding garments of righteousness on, yet they keep toiling with sin despite the call of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ to repentance. They are not watchful enough; therefore, persistent sinning will take the garment away from them and they will be naked, and everyone will see their shame. Those whom the king would ask how they got in fall into those two categories. In which of the categories are you currently? Are you part of those we can refer to as those who came in through the window? Those who are genuinely saved must keep their garments and not let them be defiled.

Revelation 3:4 KJV Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. This set of people is found worthy because they accepted the gospel and did not defile their wedding garments. Since the man had no genuine excuse to give for not having a wedding garment, he was punished. Just the same way, no one would have any excuse for not preparing for the coming of the King. **Matthew 22:13 KJV** 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. This is the eternal destination of the hypocrite. They will be bound hand and foot as if without the power to run away or fight back; they will be totally restrained and forcefully thrown away from God's light into outer darkness, far away from God.

They will be totally separated from God, where they will not be able to smile and laugh anymore in their pretense but will weep and gnash their teeth in uncontrollable tears and eternal regrets of not making use of the opportunity to correct their wicked ways. The regrets will be so profound and self-inflicted when they remember how they sat among the saints without truly being part of them and did not do what was expected to secure their own space among the saints in the right way. **Luke 13:28 KJV** There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. Remember, all those who do not have a wedding garment will forever regret their eternity.

May we not regret our eternity in Jesus' name.

How to know that you do not have a wedding garment

1. When you cannot recall a particular day when you gave your life to Jesus Christ, if you cannot remember the day you got saved or your salvation experience, then you do not have a wedding garment, even if you were born into a Christian family. Salvation experience is one that cannot be forgotten.

2. When you do not love hearing the truth of the gospel, if the truth of God's words annoys you and you take offense from the preaching of true ministers of God because they point out your errors to you, you do not have a wedding garment. Those who are

genuinely saved love to hear the truth. **2 Timothy 4:3 KJV** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.

3. If you enjoy sin so much and do not feel guilty about your sins, you do not have a wedding garment. Anyone who is genuinely saved would always feel guilty whenever they fall into sin.

4. If your lifestyle is not different from the people of the world and you flow along with them easily, you do not have a wedding garment. **1 John 2:15 KJV** Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

5. When you hate those who speak the truth and speak evil about them.

6. When your lifestyle among the saints is different from the one among unbelievers, then you do not have a wedding garment. **James 4:4 KJV** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

7. When the lifestyle you preached against before is now the one you are living, you have lost your wedding garment. **2 Peter 2:22 KJV** But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Note that all have been invited to the wedding, but not all have on them the wedding garment because they claim to accept it physically, but in their hearts, they do not. This set of people are not yet qualified because the king will sight them.

How to get a wedding garment and be qualified when the king comes to see his guests

1. You must be genuinely saved; that is, you must surrender your life to Jesus Christ totally from your heart, not only with your mouth. **Romans 10:9 KJV** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
2. You must be ready to confess and forsake all your sins. **1 John 1:9 KJV** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
3. You must pray for sanctification, that God should purify you. **1 Thessalonians 5:23 KJV** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. You must be baptized with the Holy Ghost and also by water. **Acts 1:5 KJV** For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.; **Matthew 28:19 KJV** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
5. You must read the word of God always, for it is what keeps washing you. **Ephesians 5:26 KJV** That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

6. You must be constantly watching in prayers. **Matthew 26:41 KJV** Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

7. You must be a doer of His word and not a hearer only. **James 1:22 KJV** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

This would get you a wedding garment and also help you to keep it spotless until the King comes to separate those who have the garments from those who do not have. May we not be found wanting in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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