



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

➤ **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:

➤ **22:12** And he saith unto him,
Friend, how camest thou in
hither not having
a wedding garment?

➤ **And he was speechless.**

- This is a parable **within a parable.**
- And it is also a very close **continuation** and **amplification** of the previous one.
- It is the story of a guest who appeared at a royal wedding feast without a **proper wedding garment.**

- Among the ancients, long white robes were often worn at public festivals;
- And those who appeared on such occasions with any other garments were esteemed,
worthy of punishment.

- The person who invited the guests provided such a garment for each,
- It was this which made the conduct of the guest mentioned in the text inexcusable.

- God is constantly warning the reprobate of their impending fate,
- And pleading with them to turn away from sin.

- **Nothing demonstrates**
God's love more
than the various warnings
throughout the pages
of Scripture,
urging sinners
 - **to flee from the**
wrath to come.
(1 Thessalonians 1:10)

- Anyone who knows anything about Scripture knows it is filled with warnings about the judgment to come,
- Warnings about hell,
 - Warnings about the severity of divine punishment.

- It is true that **the door is open**
to all,
- But when they come **they must bring new life**
which seeks to fit
the love which has
been given to them.

- **Grace** is not only **a gift**;

- It is a

- grave responsibility.**

- A man/woman

- cannot go on**

- living the life

- he/she lived before

- he/she met Jesus Christ.

- Christians must be clothed:
 - In a new purity
 - A new holiness
 - A new goodness.
- The old must be put away.
 - As Christ provides new garments
of Righteousness

- The door is open,
but it is not open
for the sinner to come
and remain a sinner,
- But for the sinner
to come
and become a saint.

- The way
in which
one comes
anything
demonstrates the spirit
in which he/she comes.

- This parable has nothing to do with the clothes in which we go to church;
- It has everything to do with the attitude in which we go to God's house.

- **There are garments:**
 - of the **mind**
 - of the **heart**
 - of the **soul**
 - And these are the garments **without which we ought not to approach God.**

- Sometimes the warnings of Scripture bear the marks of divine wrath.
- They sound severe.
 - They reflect God's hatred of sin.

- They warn of the **irreversible**
condemnation
that will befall sinners.
- They are unsettling,
unpleasant,
even terrifying.

- But they are admonitions from a loving God who weeps over the destruction of the wicked.
(Matthew 23:37)

- They are necessary expressions from the heart of a compassionate Creator

who takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

(Ezekiel 33:11)

- **Ezekiel 33:11**

**As I live,
saith the Lord GOD,
I have no pleasure in the
death of the wicked;**

**that the wicked turn from his
way and live: turn ye, turn ye
from your evil ways; for why
will ye die, O house of Israel?**

- Jesus told this parable in **Matthew 22:2–14** **to warn of indifference.**
 - He sent his servants **to invite the wedding guests.**
 - Scripture says simply, **“they were unwilling to come”** (v. 3).

- The king sends his servants again, saying,
“Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast”
(v. 4).

- But the invited guests remained unwilling to come.
 - “**They paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business” (vv. 5–6).**
 - This was outrageous, inexcusable behavior!
 - And the king judged them severely for it.

- The king then said:

“The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast” (v. 9).

- He opened the invitation to all comers.

- Jesus closes with this:

**“Many are called,
but few are chosen”**

(v. 14).

- The parable represents God's dealing with the **nation of Israel.**
 - They were the **invited guests.**
 - But they **rejected the Messiah.**
 - They wouldn't come **so Jesus said to them:**

- **You search the Scriptures,
because you think
that in them
you have eternal life;**
- **and it is these that bear
witness of Me;**
- **and you are unwilling to come
to Me, that you may have life.
(John 5:39–40)**

- God's love for mankind does not stop with a warning of the judgment to come.
 - It also invites sinners to partake of divine mercy.
 - It offers forgiveness and mercy.

- Jesus said,

“Come to Me,

all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle

and humble in heart;

and you shall find rest for your souls”

(Matthew 11:28–29).

- In "*The Wedding Feast*", the Lord is revealing Himself and the nature of Israel's rejection more clearly than He did in the parable of *the vineyard*...
- There He was indeed the son; but here He is a royal son.

- In this parable, we also see an expansion of the element of Divine Judgment.

- This parable,
also describes
judgment upon those
who have accepted
the King's invitation,
- Yet not in the way
it was intended
to be received!

- Jesus said, the kingdom of heaven is likened to a wedding feast (Matthew 22:1-2)
 - Isaiah had used the figure of a feast to prophecy of the Messianic age. (Isaiah 25:6)
 - Book of Revelation describes a future marriage of the Lamb and His Bride (Rev 19:7)

- Matthew 22:4

”All things are ready”

- The table is spread.

- The garments are waiting.

- And yet the invitation is rejected.
- By those indifferent.
(Matthew 22:3-5)
- By those rebellious.
(Matthew 22:6)
- The King's reaction is furious
(Matthew 22:7)

- And a guest has arrived improperly attired.
(Matthew 22:11-14)
- To not wear the provided garment showed a lack of respect and appreciation
- No real excuse could be offered for not wearing one
 - "He was speechless"
(Matthew 22:12)

- The seriousness of the insult is seen in the reaction of the king.

- Matthew 22:13

Then the king said
to the servants,

- Bind him hand and foot,
 - and cast him out into the outer darkness;
- there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

- Jesus' conclusion in Matthew 22:14 summarizes the main point of the entire parable.
- The invitation of God is extended to all,
- But few receive it in such a way to be among the "chosen"

- This invitation to **"The Wedding Feast"** is still being offered today.
- With that in mind, let us consider **a few more thoughts**

- The King's invitation can be rejected through indifference.
 - Many people do not know God because of a lack of interest.
 - For this reason alone they will be condemned.

- **2 Thessalonians 1:7**

The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his **mighty angels,**

- **1:8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them **that know not God,** and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- **1:9** Who shall be punished **with everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

- There are many who know full well the Father's invitation.
- But for whatever reason they rebel against it
 - In so doing, they store up for themselves God's righteous indignation (Romans 2:4-11)

- Many seek to attend the "wedding" in apparel of their own choosing.
- Choosing their own goodness rather than the "Righteousness" of God.
(Romans 10:1-3)

- People do this today, when they expect salvation on terms different than those taught in the gospel.
- Trying to obtain salvation based upon their own good works.

- Expecting salvation based on **“faith alone”**.
- When the Bible plainly says, **“NOT by faith alone.”**
(James 2:24)

- One must be willing to put on the "apparel" that God gives us:
 - We must "put on" Jesus Christ!
- Which is done through "Baptism"

- **Galatians 3:27**

**For as many of you
as have been
baptized into Christ
have put on Christ.**

- There is your
“**wedding garment**”!

- We must "put on"
the new man!
- Ephesians 4:24
**You must put on
the new self,
which is created
in God's likeness
and reveals itself
in the true life that is
upright and holy.**

- Do not be found at wedding feast wearing the apparel of the "old man with his deeds".

- If you do, you will be found "speechless"!
(Matthew 22:12)

- The wedding invitation is still being offered today.

- Have you answered the call?

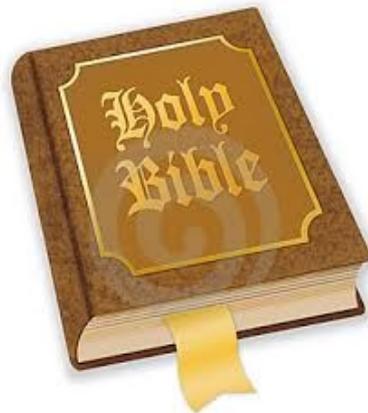
- The Words of Jesus still ring true:

- “*For many are called, but few are chosen.*”
(Matthew 22:14)

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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