

Marriage



MARRIAGE PART 11 - NOT HAVING THE APPROPRIATE GARMENT ON

In part 10 we went into great depth, taking us through our absolute need to be made ready, having both our bridal garments on, for the wedding and the marriage feast.

Now we will look at the consequence for not having the appropriate garment on and being removed from the wedding feast in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 22:1-14 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. Again he sent out other slaves saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast."'

But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. Then he said to his slaves, '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.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. "But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

The first thing to recognise is that this is a parable, or a story, which Jesus is sharing to make one overarching point within the context of the kingdom of God. This parable is not in the context of the message of justification for sin and iniquity but as previously stated the message of the kingdom.

The overarching point is that many are called to be part of the wedding feast in the kingdom of heaven, but only few are chosen, because only a few, choose to live the kind of life to which they are invited and called.

A whole lot of people turned down the invitation to the wedding, due to loving their own lives more than the Son, and then there was the man who was at the wedding feast, but he didn't have the appropriate

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garment on to be at the wedding, so he is removed.

There are the many who are invited who never actually show up and there will be the many who are removed, due to not having the right garment on.

You see many are invited, but only few actually live the kind of lives that get rewarded, because it's only a few that love Him more than they love themselves, who live lives defined by His love in them.

Luke 14:25-26 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

If you chose to ignore these words of Christ Himself, you do so at your own peril. This is purely about who you love as your first, and we haven't even looked at who you really are living for yet?

The many are still trapped loving themselves and others, way more than they love God. In fact, I would go as far as to say, that they don't actually love the Son at all, they just believe and think they do.

The words that the Spirit wants to confront us with is "**he can not be My disciple**". Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is not an automatic reality. We must become a disciple of Jesus and there are very strict conditions based upon this, one of which Jesus states here.

The first place desire of every disciple of Jesus is to become like Jesus and live as He lived.

This isn't about whether Jesus loves you, but who do you love?

The many are the crowd, the few are in fact true disciples and true disciples will have the appropriate garments on at the wedding feast, because they do love Jesus beyond all others, and that love has defined the way they have lived their lives unto Him.

Luke 10:25-29 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; ." Do this and you will live. But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

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Only when you and I are able to keep the commandment of love are we able to live lives of genuine love unto God and be found with the correct garments on.

When we are presented with the thing that we can't do in our ability, many of us like the teacher look to justify ourselves out of the answer we are given, and go looking for another way, because we don't like the truth we are taught. We do this at our own peril, and if we remain like this, will find ourselves, being thrown out of the wedding feast and into the outer darkness, which is not hell, but a place outside of the banquet.

We will be filled with regret because we will know at this point that we are missing out on what we were called into, due to our own unbelief and unwillingness to enter into the true process of sanctification of the spirit and faith in the truth.

The question we must all consider is, "Will we have the appropriate garment on at the wedding feast or will we find ourselves placed in the outer darkness, the place outside of the wedding feast in the kingdom of heaven?"

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it essential we are wearing the appropriate garments?
2. Why must we live lives of love defined by God and not what we think or believe love is?
3. Why can we not be His disciple if we love others more than Him?
4. How does this loving others more than Him effect our lives now?
5. What steps of faith do you sense you need to take from going through this resource?

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