“Are Your Garments Spotless?”

**Matt. 22:1-14**

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Sean Hoisington, Hayden Bible Church, 2/27/22)

 In Matt. 22, Jesus continues speaking in the temple to the Pharisees, chief priests, and elders. He is using parables, one of His favorite methods of teaching. For those in a right relationship with God, parables provide encouragement. For those without a right relationship with God, parables are inflammatory, provoking anger and confusion. This parable is specifically geared for those who thought they could see, but were, in reality, blind. (Q1)

 Jesus is speaking to a group who knew the history of the calling and redeeming of the people of Israel from Pharoah’s yoke. These leaders knew how the Jewish people continually broke the covenant and went astray. But in their hubris, they couldn’t conceive that **THEY** were the ones who needed this message; **THEY** were the ones who were leading their people astray.

 As this parable begins, (Matt. 22:2-4), God is saying, come and honor My Son, the Messiah. But the people paid no attention. Their apathy showed dishonor and it provoked the King’s judgment (Matt. 22:7) (see also John 3:18-19). (Q2) The King then opens the invitation to His Son’s wedding feast to EVERYONE (22:8-9). This is reflected elsewhere in God’s Word (see Rom. 9:25-26 and Gen. 12:3). The message to the Pharisees is clear: if the Jews will not honor My Son, I will go to others. MY SON **WILL** BE HONORED!

 Do you remember what it was like when you were convicted of your sin? You couldn’t wait to put on Christ! You cried out to Him and He saved you. You ran to Him for rescue and shelter. But Matt. 22:11-12 tells of a man who refused the King’s offer of wedding clothes because he “was just fine the way he was.” His rebellion cried out, “I’m gonna wear what I wanna wear!” He was like the men in Rom. 10:3-4. They also refused to put on Christ. Like the thief at the sheepfold in John 10:1, they wanted to climb up some other way instead of entering by the door. They were very much like the people all around us who think they can save themselves by their good works (Rom. 9:31-32). Make no mistake, no one will be justified by the works of the law. Jesus is the ONLY way. He said so Himself (John 14:6). (Q3) (Q4)

 Verses 13-14 are a stark warning to those who refuse the proper clothing. Thinking they could see, they were really blind. What they needed were the spotless garments cleansed with Christ’s precious blood. The old Law was to point the way to the Messiah. But instead of coming to Christ, many Jews stumbled over Him. But there’s good news: there will be a remnant who will put on the wedding garments provided by the King’s Son (Rom. 9:27).

 The King in Matt. 22 provided the appropriate garments, His Son’s own garments. If you put those on, you will not be cast out (John 6:37). So, before this looming judgment takes place, shouldn’t YOU put on Christ (Gal. 3:27)? If you have already done this, shouldn’t you share this great news with your family and friends? You are made worthy by the blood of Christ. He calls us to proclaim His life-giving death until He returns (1Cor. 11:26). Let us bring honor to Jesus, the Son of the King! Amen. (Q5)

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What blinds people from seeing truth?
2. What creates apathy or indifference toward God? What else preoccupies people in 2022?
3. Pastor Sean said, “The King Himself supplies the clothing appropriate for the party.” What is that clothing? Can it be purchased elsewhere?
4. What other means of salvation have people come up with? Why are these ways bogus?
5. This parable dealt with putting on Christ, the Author of our salvation. Eph. 6:10-12 tells believers to put on something else. What is it? Why put it on?

“At Calvary” (Newell)

 Years I spent in vanity and pride,

 Caring not my Lord was crucified,

 Knowing not it was for me He died

 On Calvary.

 Refrain:

 Mercy there was great, and grace was free;

 Pardon there was multiplied to me;

 There my burdened soul found liberty

 At Calvary.

 By God’s Word at last my sin I learned;

 Then I trembled at the law I’d spurned,

 Till my guilty soul imploring turned

 To Calvary.

 Now I’ve giv’n to Jesus everything,

 Now I gladly own Him as my King,

 Now my raptured soul can only sing

 Of Calvary!

 Oh, the love that drew salvation’s plan!

 Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!

 Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span

 At Calvary!