

# God's Banquet

## Matthew 22:1-14

Kingdom Come! (Gospel of Matthew Series)

Prepared by: Matthew S. Black

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[livinghopechurch.net](http://livinghopechurch.net)

“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

– C. S. Lewis

### Announcements

1. Welcome to visitors
2. Expositors class & evening service

If you don't have a Bible, there should be one in the seat in front of you. Open your Bible to **Matthew 22**. We are continuing in our series in the book of Matthew entitled “Kingdom Come.” This morning we are looking at a message entitled: “God's Banquet.”

### Cocoa Bean Farmers

I saw a documentary recently of cocoa bean farmers. These farmers are the biggest supplier in the world to Hershey chocolate. They have an amazing process to harvest and dry the cocoa beans. We here in the US are very grateful for cocoa beans!

According to Bloomberg statistics, nearly 250 million Hershey Bars were sold in 2013. The chocolate bar is highly mass-produced, sold in over 70 countries. Chocolate production starts with harvesting cocoa in a forest. Native to South and Central America, cocoa trees are currently grown on commercial plantations in Malaysia, Brazil, Ecuador, and the Ivory Coast.

In the documentary, the cocoa farmers had made so much money harvesting and selling cocoa beans, but they had *never* tasted chocolate.

It was amazing to see the reaction of the film's director when the farmers tasted the chocolate. Their faces lit up! They said, “It's so sweet!” Another farmer said, “Can I keep this?” And they gave them as much chocolate as they wanted.

### Why Won't Some People Come to God's Banquet?

In today's passage of Matthew 22:1-14, we read of a similar situation. God makes a great feast for people. They are so near the good food, but they never taste it. They never get the good food. The parable that Jesus tells is about a feast with the greatest Host: the King who represents God. God makes the best feasts doesn't He? Why won't some people come to God's banquet?

**Matthew 22:1-14**

“And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, 3 and sent his servants to **call** those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”” 5 But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. 7 The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ 10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12 And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

**Outline**

We all need mercy. How do we get it? It comes in three ways.

- Respond to God's call, vs. 1-10
- Be filled with God's feast, vs. 4, 8-10
- Rest in God's covering, vs. 11-14

**The Simple Meaning**

The reason the parable is so easy to understand is that nearly every part is discussed in plain terms elsewhere. The king is God, sitting on the throne of the universe. The son is his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The banquet is the marriage supper of the Lamb. The messengers are the early preachers of the gospel. Those to whom the invitation was first given are the upright Jews, and those who eventually come to the banquet are the outcast and poor, even Gentiles. John 1:11–12 says, “He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”<sup>1</sup>

**Judgment Parable**

Like the previous two parables (two sons, wicked tenants), this is a judgment parable. In other words Jesus is being rejected by many of His people that should have celebrated His kingdom. Remember, beginning in Matt. 11, Jesus is making His way to Jerusalem to die. He is rejected in Galilee. Mt. 11:21, “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.” He later says that there were softer hearts in Sodom and Gomorrah than in Galilee.

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<sup>1</sup> Boice, J. M. (2001). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 466). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

## Closer to Jerusalem, More Rejection

The closer and closer Jesus gets to Jerusalem, the more rejection He is suffering. He comes through the gates of Jerusalem, and many of the people worship Him, but the chief priests, the scribes, the elders, the Pharisees who should have been leading the people to love Jesus, were instead conspiring to kill our Lord!

## Merit vs. Mercy

So Jesus gives a parable that tells us how we should enter God's kingdom. It also shows how many reject God's kingdom because they are blinded and not interested.

My hope is that you will wake up today. Hear the call of God's Kingdom. Hear Him cry out to come to His banquet feast. He's the great King. He's invited you! Don't harden your heart like the chief priests. Come!

## I. Respond to God's **call**, vs. 1-10

**Matthew 22:1-10**, "And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, 2 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.'"

### The Kingdom of Heaven – God's Dominion of Redemption

First, we must ask, "what is the kingdom of heaven"? Most Jews would have understood that it was synonymous with the kingdom of God and represented the realm of God's sovereign rule.

There are past, present, and future as well as eternal aspects of **the kingdom**, but it is not restricted to any era or period of redemptive history. It is the continuing, ongoing sphere of God's rule by grace. God wants to save His people.

John MacArthur rightly describes it as "God's dominion of redemption,"<sup>2</sup>

### God is Calling, "Supper Time!" – Listen!

So Jesus tells a story to illustrate how God calls people into His kingdom, into His family. How can I become a child of God? We learn how. Listen to His call.

I remember as a child playing in the back yard. We would be swinging on the swing set or playing hide and seek. And then I would hear my mom call, "Dinner time!"

That's what we have hear! God tells his servants to call out: "Supper time!" Look at verse 3, "and [the King] sent his servants to call those who were [ALREADY] invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'" 5 But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business..."

### A Wedding Feast for the King's Son

This isn't just an ordinary meal. This is a feast! A wedding feast! And this was for the King's Son. A wedding feast for common people lasted several days to a week. But a wedding feast for a king's son would last several weeks to a month.

The King would provide the best of food.

<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew* (Mt 22:1). Chicago: Moody Press.

### Honored Guests: the “Already Invited Ones”

Here we see that the servants are to call “the already invited ones.” Vs. 3, “call those who were [ALREADY] invited to the wedding feast.”

These are those who have already received the invitation. They know the time. The food is prepared. All is ready. They just have to come.

### Boasting to Neighbors

The guests who were invited already knew they were expected to attend the wedding. To be a pre-invited guest to the king's wedding was among the highest honors possible. In a normal situation, those who received invitations to a Royal Wedding would be boasting to their neighbors and friends.<sup>3</sup>

But there is no boasting! The people are refusing to come. **Vs. 3b-5**, “they would not come. 4 Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ 5 But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business...”

### They Paid No Attention to God's Call

These people paid no attention to God's call. Obviously Jesus is talking about many who heard Him preach. They did not come. He went to the synagogues. He went to the “regular people.” The chief priests of the synagogues warned the people, “Don't listen to him!” They said, “He casts out devils by the prince of devils!”

### Too Busy Saving Themselves

**Verse 5** says, “But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business...” They were too busy saving themselves. They went off to do their work instead of rest at God's banquet.

There are those who are just too busy trying to cook their own banquet that they won't go to God's banquet.

We often want to try to improve ourselves before we come to God. We want to make ourselves better. So we can't hear God's calling.

God is calling you. He's been calling you all your life. Many are called! You are called. The whole world is called! Are you coming? Come now!

### Slow Down and Listen!

As Christians, we cannot allow ourselves to be swept away in the undercurrent of the cultural stopwatch.

1. **Don't be conformed to the world. Romans 12:2** says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” The world and the devil want you so busy that you cannot hear from God. Slow down. When all the circuits are busy, you need to get quiet by unplugging some of those circuits.
2. **Learn to say “No!”** My wife often tells me when we say “Yes” to something we are saying “No” to something else. Say “Yes” to kingdom activities. You may have to

<sup>3</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew* (Mt 22:1). Chicago: Moody Press.

work less overtime. You may have to say “no” to certain hobbies. You might have to say NO to the wrong influences in your life. You might have to get off of social media. You might have to clear out your phone numbers on your phone. Do whatever it takes to say NO to distractions and unhealthy people in your life, and say YES to God. By the way, we don't want to kick spiritually unhealthy people out of our lives forever. It's just until we are strong enough. If I'm going to be dragged down instead of lifting them up, then I need to wait till I'm strong enough.

3. **Eliminate distractions.** Are you distracted by media? Unplug! No phones during meal times. Turn off the phone and the media and turn on your heart to the Lord.
4. **Listen to God and learn to say YES to Him.** God has made a feast for you. Whatever He has for you, it's good. Now you don't know what is going to be on your table. You don't know if it's victories or trials to eat. Sometimes we have to eat our vegetables. Sometimes it's a wonderful victory, like a main course. Sometimes it's something sweet like a dessert. But say YES to God. Proper nutrition makes us healthy. Whatever God has for you listen to Him. Surrender totally to Him. Go to His feast. It's an honor! Don't get distracted!

**Proverbs 3:5-7**, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

8 It will be healing to your flesh  
and refreshment to your bones.”

### **Listen to God: Your Life Depends On It!**

We need to listen to God. Our life literally depends on it. Your eternity depends on it. Your soul depends on it. What happens in the parable when some of the people not only ignore God, but they fight against God and His servants?

This happened in Jesus' day. The Pharisees were glad when John the Baptist was put to death, and in our passage, they are waiting and licking their chops to put Jesus to death as well.

Let's look at the story of those who were invited to the feast in verse 6, but killed the servants who brought the invitation.

**Mt. 21:6-10**, “While the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.  
7 The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.  
8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.  
9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’  
10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good.  
So the wedding hall was filled with guests.”

### **Fulfillment of This Prophecy**

The fulfillment of the second prophetic feature in the story occurred in A.D. 70. When the Roman general Titus conquered Jerusalem in that year, he killed some 1,100,000 Jews, threw their

bodies over the wall, and slaughtered countless thousands more throughout Palestine.<sup>4</sup> In his *The Wars of the Jews*, the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, who witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem, graphically chronicled the horrible scene:

That building [the Temple at Jerusalem], however, God long ago had sentenced to the flames; but now in the revolution of the time periods the fateful day had arrived, the tenth of the month Lous, the very day on which previously it had been burned by the king of Babylon. ... One of the soldiers, neither awaiting orders nor filled with horror of so dread an undertaking, but moved by some supernatural impulse, snatched a brand from the blazing timber and, hoisted up by one of his fellow soldiers, flung the fiery missile through a golden window. ... When the flame arose, a scream, as poignant as the tragedy, went up from the Jews ... now that the object which before they had guarded so closely was going to ruin. ... While the sanctuary was burning ... neither pity for age nor respect for rank was shown; on the contrary, children and old people, laity and priests alike were massacred. ... The emperor ordered the entire city and sanctuary to be razed to the ground, except only the highest towers, Phasael, Hippicus, and Mariamne, and that part of the wall that enclosed the city on the west.<sup>5</sup>

### **Both Bad and Good are Called**

The king explained to **his slaves** that **the wedding** was **ready, but those who were invited were not worthy** to attend. Their unworthiness was not because in themselves they lacked the required righteousness. Neither the original invitation nor the subsequent calls were based on merit but solely on the king's gracious favor. Ironically and tragically, they were declared to be **not worthy** because they refused an invitation that was in no way based on worth. As the parable goes on to make clear (v. 10), "both bad and good" people were called.<sup>6</sup>

### **Not Worthy, Because they Rejected God's Invitation**

That which makes a person worthy of receiving salvation is not any sort of human goodness or religious or spiritual accomplishment but simply his saying yes to God's invitation to receive His Son, Jesus Christ, as Lord. The people God here declared **not worthy** were His chosen people, Israel, who would not come to Him freely and without merit through His Son. And because they rejected the Son, God rejected them for a season. Because they rejected their own Messiah, they were temporarily cast off as a nation and as God's unique chosen people.<sup>7</sup>

### **Respond to God's Call**

God is good and He has only good for those who trust Him. Someone told me this morning that they were meditating on Psalm 40:4, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD."

Listen to God's call and respond to it!

### **Chosen by God**

It's all God isn't it? Romans 3:11, "No one seeks after God." I wasn't looking for God. God wasn't lost. I was lost, and God found me. He called me.

Yes we decide for Christ. But we come to realize we were decided upon. "We love Him, because He first loved us."

Therefore, the most important first point is one of the ways you know you've had the mercy of God in your life is you know this ...

<sup>4</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew* (Mt 22:1). Chicago: Moody Press.

<sup>5</sup> Flavius Josephus. *The Wars of the Jews*.

<sup>6</sup> MacArthur, *ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

*'Tis not that I did choose Thee,  
For Lord, that could not be;  
This heart would still refuse Thee,  
Hadst Thou not chosen me ...<sup>8</sup>*

## II. Be filled with God's feast, vs. 4, 8-10

**Matthew 22:4, 8-10**, "Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'" ... 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' 10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests."

### God is Cooking the Best Feast

In the passage, God's kingdom, or as John MacArthur puts it: "God's redemptive reign" is compared to a feast. You want to be saved? You've got to let God put on the feast. What is our cooking compared to what God can do?

We are all as C.S. Lewis said, like children making mud pies, thinking we are making something great. "We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."<sup>9</sup>

Without Christ, we have nothing but mud pies. Slaving away making dirt. Our righteousness is dirty, it's as Isaiah says: like dirty, filthy rags.

### The Essence of the Parable

The essential meaning of this parable is it's not your sins that really keep you from God. It's not your badness that keeps you from God; it's your goodness, your good deeds. It's not your sins that really keep you from God; it's your damnable good works. It's the things you think make you good enough. Most of us are not just amazed with every good thing that comes into our life. The reason we're not cheering for every plate at God's banquet is because we feel like we deserve it or we deserve better.<sup>10</sup>

It's like we are cooking our own feast of mud pies, and we think our feast is better and more important than God's feast.

### Spurgeon Quote: A Feast that Makes You Good!

Charles Haddon Spurgeon said, "It is a glorious Gospel—the feast is good. He is a glorious king—the Host is good. He is a blessed Savior... He is good. It is all good, and **you shall be made good too**, if your souls accept the invitation of the Gospel which is given to you this day."

<sup>8</sup> Keller, T. J. (2013). *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive*. New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

<sup>9</sup> Clive Staples Lewis. *Weight of Glory*, 26.

<sup>10</sup> Keller, T. J. (2013). *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive*. New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

## Richard Wurmbrand

Romanian pastor Richard Wurmbrand spent 14 years in prison for preaching the gospel. Although his captors smashed four of his vertebrae and either cut or burned 18 holes in his body, they could not defeat him.

He testified, "Alone in my cell, cold, hungry, and in rags, I danced for joy every night." During this time he turned to a fellow prisoner, a man he had led to the Lord before they were arrested, and asked, "Have you any resentment against me that I brought you to Christ?" His response: "I have no words to express my thankfulness that you brought me to the wonderful Savior. I would never have it another way." These two men exemplify the supernatural joy that can be experienced by believers who live on the edge of horrific suffering with complete fullness of joy.

## Not a Sin to Seek Godly Pleasure

I want to be clear tonight. It is not a sin to seek godly pleasure. God invented pleasure. He invented laughter, joy, freedom, sex, art, music, and all good things. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (**James 1:17**). It is a sin to seek pleasure outside of God and His plan for our lives. Our problem is that when we seek unhealthy and ungodly addictions, we are breaking the first commandment. We seek addiction to please ourselves without regard to pleasing God. What do these idols/addictions look like?

- It could be an **emotional** addiction/idol. You could be addicted to control and having your way, and you are good at manipulation.
- It could be a **behavioral** addiction/idol, like pornography or gambling or lying.
- It could be a **substance** addiction/idol, like alcohol or drugs or food.
- It could be a **media** addiction/idol, like compulsive web surfing or use of social media on your pc or phone.
- It could be an addiction/idol to **materialism** and the accumulation of more stuff, to the praise of men, to a thousand other things that take the place of God.

## John Calvin Quote

John Calvin said, "The heart is an idol making factory". Our sinful heart has the ability to create thousands of idols.

## Pleasure Without God

The root of all idols is the desire to please your self above God. Pleasure is not a sin. James tells us (ESV) — "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:17).

We are called to "delight in the Lord" and to have "joy unspeakable and full of glory."

It is not wrong to seek pleasure. It is wrong to seek it outside of God and His plan for our lives. All people seek pleasure.

### **Be Filled with God's Feast!**

**Matthew 22:4**, “Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’”

Come to the wedding feast! Can I ask you, are you living the life God has prepared for you? Are you feasting on the food God makes for you each morning?

### **The Wedding Guests**

No one wanted to come, so the King gave orders to invite others.

**Matthew 22:4, 8-10**, “Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’” ... 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ 10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.”

### **Getting Desire of Your Heart Might be the Worst Thing!**

Tim Keller in his book "Counterfeit gods" said this:

“Most people spend their lives trying to make their heart’s fondest dreams come true. Isn’t that what life is all about, “the pursuit of happiness”? We search endlessly for ways to acquire the things we desire, and we are willing to sacrifice much to achieve them. We never imagine that getting our heart’s deepest desires might be the worst thing that can ever happen to us”.<sup>11</sup>

What you need is Christ!

### **Come to God's Banquet and be Filled!**

God would have His heaven filled! The righteous Pharisees would not come, so Jesus called the prostitutes and sinners. He called the blind and the lame. He called the helpless.

Do sinners hear the voice of Christ from you?

- **Isaiah 55:1**, “Ho, every one that thirsts, come to the waters, and he that has no money; come, buy, and eat; yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”
- Christ says, “Come unto me, all you who labor and have heavy burdens” (Matthew 11:28).
- The Spirit and the Bride say Come! Christ says Come and “let him that is thirsty come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17).

<sup>11</sup> Timothy Keller. *Counterfeit gods* (Dutton: London, 2009), 1.

### III. Rest in God's **covering**, vs. 11-14

#### Matthew 22:11-14

“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12 And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

#### Why No Wedding Garment?

There are two good reasons why anybody would not have a wedding garment. One possible reason is, of course, “I didn’t have one because I didn’t have a chance to go home and get it.” The second reason is, “I didn’t have one because I don’t own one.” But why does he say neither of those things? Here’s the reason why. If you look more carefully, you’ll see up in verses 3 and 4 the original guests were invited in having been invited. In other words, they were all ready.

But if you look carefully at verse 10, what did they do? In verse 10 it says, “So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people [in] ...” They weren’t making reservations. They came right on in, and therefore, none of them could have possibly had their own wedding garments with them. First, because they came right in; they didn’t go home. Secondly, because many of them would’ve been poor and wouldn’t have had them.

Therefore, the King must have provided the wedding garments at his expense. This guy, even though they’re right at the door, couldn’t say, “I didn’t have a chance to get one.” Nobody had. The reason he can’t say, “I don’t own one,” is nobody did, and therefore, he’s thrown. What is the point?<sup>12</sup>

#### Someone Without the King’s Wedding Garment

The point is someone came thinking they were ok without the king’s wedding garment.

God, at his expense, a far greater expense, an infinite expense, will take anyone. Your record means nothing, your socioeconomic background means nothing, and your standing means nothing. You come into the feast of the Son, not by being fit, but by admitting you’re not fit and by letting the Lord clothe you.<sup>13</sup>

If we have a God who just says, “I love you all just the way you are,” what hope is there for the world? The Bible’s God certainly gives us hope for the world because the biblical God says, “I will square everything. There will not be one unjust deed that will not be paid.” But the biblical God also says, “It could be paid one of two ways. Either you will pay, or my Son can pay.”<sup>14</sup> The wedding garment is the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

#### A New Creation

Nobody gets to heaven without the righteousness of Jesus Christ. He paid for it. I love the way 2 Cor. 5:17 puts it: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

<sup>12</sup> Keller, T. J. (2013). *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive*. New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

But look down at verse 21, How did this happen? How could He make us new creations? Verse 21, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

### Heaven's Robes

Here we see the same when we get to heaven. In **Revelation 19:6-9**, we see and hear amazing things! John says, “Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!  
For the Lord our God  
the Almighty reigns.  
7 Let us rejoice and exult  
and give him the glory,  
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,  
and his Bride has made herself ready;  
8 it was granted her to clothe herself  
with fine linen, bright and pure”—  
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

Are you dressed in Heaven's Robes?

### Are you Ready?

Verse 8, “It was granted to her to clothe herself.” Do you know what that is? It's the new nature. The new nature always produces a life of godliness. This is not perfection, but it is a life of growing and changing in Christ!

### Joshua the Priest

Look over at Zechariah 3. We are all like Joshua the priest of the Lord. He did not have his own righteousness. **Zech. 3:1-5**, “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.”<sup>2</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?”<sup>3</sup> Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments.<sup>4</sup> And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.”<sup>5</sup> And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord was standing by.”

### No Wedding Garment? Hell

What happens if we don't have a wedding garment? Verse 13, “Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

You cannot risk your soul. Don't trust in your own covering. Trust in Christ. Rest in Him. If you come to God in your own righteousness it is "filthy rags."

It's not our bad deeds that keep us out of heaven, but our good deeds. We think we are too good.

Even for the Christian, why don't you grow and change? You cannot do it in your own power! What you have begun in the Spirit you will not perfect in the flesh!

### **Chocolate Farmers**

You might be like one of those chocolate farmers. Imagine you are a chocolate farmer but you've never feasted on chocolate.

You would be a fool to reject a lifetime supply of chocolate! We are the greatest fools to reject God's banquet!