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Matthew 22:1-14

1. “Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying,
2. ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.
3. ‘And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come.
4. ‘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.’”
5. ‘But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business,
6. and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them.
7. ‘But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire.
8. ‘Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.
9. “Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find *there*, invite to the wedding feast.”
10. ‘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.
11. ‘But when the king came in to look over the dinner

guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes,

12. and he said to him, “Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?” And the man was speechless.

13. ‘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.”

14. ‘For many are called, but few *are* chosen.’”

According to this parable, our clothing is somehow very important to our salvation. The man in the parable who was not dressed in wedding clothes and entered into the wedding feast was thrown out. In this case the king tells his servants to “bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” That sounds like hell to me!

Historically, it is important to note that in those days when a king threw a wedding feast for his son, it was customary for the king to send a set of clothes to the guest along with the invitation--if the guest could not afford/or did not have appropriate clothes for the wedding. This was to insure everyone would be appropriately dressed for the occasion.

So it is important to ask, “What clothing does God provide for us?” as He calls us to the wedding feast of His Son at the end of the age.