

## It's the King's Party

**August 21, 2016**—Parables of Jesus

### **Matthew 22:1-14 — The Wedding Feast**

God wants everyone to experience eternal life with Him. God has issued invitations—first to the Israelites, then to the whole world, without regard for a person's history of prestige or inadequacy—to join Him when all is ready. Although everyone is welcome, we must accept The Lord's invitation; lay aside the garments of our previous life of accomplishment and/or failure and wear the glorious, resurrection-garments provided by our God through His Son, Jesus. The choice is ours to make.

*"It is God Who is in control of His Kingdom and its inhabitants, not those who choose to come in or not. And the Kingdom is for ALL people—which is not a comfortable point of view for some who thought the invitation was only for them" (R. E. Neil).*

As long as time lasts, there is room to gather more people into the banquet hall.

*"It isn't enough to say that we ourselves are the people dragged in from the country lanes, to our surprise, to enjoy God's party. That may be true; but party guests are then expected to become party hosts in their turn" (N. T. Wright, Luke for Everyone 179).*

**Next week:** Matthew 11:16-19/Luke 7:31-35

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*“God’s kingdom is a kingdom in which love and justice,  
truth, mercy, and holiness reign unhindered.  
They are the clothes you need to wear for the wedding.  
And if you refuse to put them on, you are saying you don’t  
want to stay at the party” (N. Wright 85).*

I honor The LORD and His kingdom by humbly accepting  
His invitation and \_\_\_\_\_ my clothes for Jesus’  
garments of righteousness.

Righteous garments are a \_\_\_\_\_ to me, and to  
everyone else who accepts the Lord’s invitation. No one  
owns, earns or deserves these special wedding clothes.

God is preparing an unimaginable feast with every guest in  
mind. His Son’s sacrifice purchased our wedding garments.  
They’re \_\_\_\_\_ for us to wear—even now.

We’ve received the King’s invitation, His Son has provided  
our clothes. Who remains in the side streets—  
\_\_\_\_\_ of God’s loving preparation and lost in  
the rubble of brokenness—awaiting His invitation?

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