

THURSDAY, JUNE 4**The Most Expensive Robe**

- In our world = clothing speaks loudly
 - Signals status / taste / success—even expresses identity
- But Jesus confronts that thinking at its core = reminds us that everything we wear / accumulate / display here = will pass away
- **Matthew 6:19–20** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”
- When eternity dawns / only one thing will matter = clothed in Christ
- Our identity should be wrapped up in Jesus
 - wearing His robe of righteousness
- Jesus sobering parable of wedding feast = **Matthew 22:1-14**
- King prepares / lavish wedding = for his son
- “All things are ready. Come to the wedding.”
 - Feast preparations complete = before single guest arrives
- Invitation = pure grace = yet many who are invited / refuse to come
 - Distracted by land / business / daily life
- Others openly reject invitation = mistreat the king’s messengers
- Grace is offered = but grace is not forced
- King widens / invitation = goes out to everyone—good/bad alike
- Wedding hall fills = grace is expansive / salvation is inclusive
- Story takes / shocking turn = When king enters
 - Sees man W/O wedding garment = gently, king asks
- **Matthew 22:12** “Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?”
- In ancient world = wedding garments / supplied by host
- King calls man “friend” = indicates relationship / knowledge
- Man / speechless = has no defense
 - Did not lack access to robe = he lacked submission
 - Chose to stand before king = in his own clothing
- King ordered him = bound / cast out = from feast and his presence

- Parable NOT about exclusion = everyone was invited
 - About refusing / one thing God requires = freely provides
- Wedding garment represents = righteousness of Christ
 - Received by faith alone

Isaiah 54:17 “Their righteousness is from Me,” says the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:5–6 Messianic Prophecy = a Branch of righteousness that will rise from David’s lineage = “Now this is His name by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**”

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness/ sanctification / redemption

- Scripture could not be clearer = **Ephesians 2:8–9** “By grace you have been saved through faith... not of works, lest anyone should boast”
 - Salvation / Not earned by effort = granted as gift / by grace
- Romans 4 = using Abraham / father of us all = as example
- Paul reminds us God credited Abraham’s **belief** as righteousness = quoting **Genesis 15:6** [Abraham] believed in the LORD, [the Lord] accounted it to him for righteousness.
- Paul emphasizes Abraham declared righteous **BEFORE** circumcision, proving righteousness = received thru faith / not works

Romans 4:5 . “To him who does not work but believes... his faith is accounted for righteousness”

- Foundational principle of justification by faith = Judaism/Christianity
- RBF = always been God’s way
- In Eden, Adam / Eve = clothed in light of God’s righteousness
- When they sinned / that covering vanished
- Aware /ashamed of their nakedness = stitched fig leaves together—
 - human effort / trying to cover human guilt
- Nothing more than = designer knockoff = cheap / inferior quality
- So God provided covering = at cost of / life of an innocent sacrifice
- Pointing to = Lamb of God = Messiah / Christ
 - who would take away = sins of / world

- Blood was shed = so they could be clothed
- From beginning = righteousness came / not by human works
 - But by divine provision / Substitutionary sacrifice
- **Everlasting Covenant = from Genesis/Revelation = God would become Son of Man / die to pay our death penalty for sin =**

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”

Romans 3:23–24 ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

- **His perfect obedience credited to our account = Justified**
- **Jesus offers us = most expensive Robe imaginable = His robe of righteousness = THRU HIS REDEMPTION**

1 Peter 1:18–19 you were not redeemed w/corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but w/ the precious blood of Christ, **as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

- Our best righteousness can never save us.
- **Isaiah 64:6** “All our righteousnesses are like filthy rags”
- Paul understood this clearly. **Philippians 3:8–9** “I count all things loss... that I may be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is thru faith in Christ”
- So what does it mean to clothe ourselves daily with Christ?

Romans 13:14 put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

- To put on Christ’s robe is to accept His life in place of ours
 - His obedience = in place of our failure
 - His perfection = in place of our weakness
- It means repentance / surrender = yield to leading of / Holy Spirit
- When we are clothed in Him / obedience follows
- Not as payment = but fruit = Faith that saves / faith that transforms

Revelation 19:8 tells us / bride is “arrayed in fine linen, clean/ white,”
Jesus’ character is perfect / spotless = He offers this to us

Rev 19:8 continues “the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

- Righteous acts do not **secure** salvation = flow from it

Ephesians 5:27 Christ presents His church “holy and without blemish.”

- Perfection cannot come from human obedience = must be given
- Scripture never confuses fruit w/ root

Ephesians 2:10 “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works”

- **His perfect character = infused in our hearts/minds by Holy Spirit**
- **Works in us to will/do His good will that we may be sanctified**

1 John 2:29 ²⁹If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Matthew 7:21 ²¹“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

- It means resting God’s promises:

Romans 5:1 “having been justified by faith, we have peace w/ God”

Romans 8:1 “there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus”

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

- Righteousness is not ours by performance = but by promise
- “The just shall live by faith” (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17).
- May we choose daily to be hidden in Him = abiding in Him
- wrapped in His righteousness / ready for wedding feast of the Lamb