

# Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

*You Must be Born Again!*

**Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**

**(John 11:25-26)**

[www.sermonaudio.com/crc](http://www.sermonaudio.com/crc)

[www.unholycharade.com](http://www.unholycharade.com) (blog)

[www.lightfordarktimes.com](http://www.lightfordarktimes.com) (blog)

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel (Light for Dark Times)

## ***The Parable of the Wedding Feast (Part 4)***

***August 24, 2025***

**Sermon Text:** Matthew 22:1- 14

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew  
22:1- 14

We have spent the last 3 Lord's days considering this powerful parable of the King's Wedding Feast given for his Son. We have learned that the Lord Jesus first addressed the Jews' twofold refusal of God' invitation to come to the kingdom where the richest

blessings ever offered were to be found. I say the invitation was *two-fold* because it was extended to the nation Israel through the Old Testament prophets, and then through the apostles' preaching the gospel of the kingdom. It was even offered by the Son Himself. But the Jews refused, as they always had, killed the prophets, persecuted the apostles, and killed the Son.

Therefore, as Jesus' parable continued, the King in His wrath came and burned their city and drove those wretches out.

The invitation to the wedding feast, to come to the kingdom of heaven,

was then extended to the Gentiles, to all the nations of the world. And so it is even today through the preaching of the gospel by Christ's church.

Thomas Manton was a preacher of this gospel. He lived from 1620-1677 in England and we are fortunate to have 22 volumes of his sermons! An amazing gift to the church even today. And in the 16<sup>th</sup> volume, the very first sermon is *A Sermon on Matthew 22:11-13*, verses contained in this very parable we have been studying.

What I would like to do this morning is to present you with a portion of Manton's sermon which contains three major points, expounding upon this warning set forth in the parable:

*Entering upon a profession of faith in Christ, or even coming to the feast without a wedding garment.*

You will recall that the wedding garment is the righteousness of Christ which this one man refused to wear:

“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 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.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22:11-14)

The three points Manton provides for us are:

1. The odiousness of this sin (ie, the horrid nature of it)
2. The certainty that this sin will be discovered
3. The dreadfulness of the doom and punishment for this sin

We have touched somewhat on the first two points, but we will revisit them and in addition come to that third point which we have not considered in detail.

## **The Odiousness of this Sin**

Here then is this man who has received the invitation and has come into the feast with the others. But unlike them, he is not clothed in the wedding garment. That is to say, he is a counterfeit, a hypocrite. He professes to be a Christian, but he is not born again and this means that the fruits of his life are rotten. An unconverted heart reveals itself in its unholy fruit.

It is not enough to profess to be a Christian. Certainly a profession of faith must be made:

Romans 10:8-10 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); (9) because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

And yet, if one’s confession of Christ is genuine and God has regenerated the man, that new birth is going to show itself. Not everyone who professes Christ will be saved. The thing must be real and the reality will be seen in obedience to Christ, in a holiness of life, love for God, and love for the brethren. Listen to Manton on this:

“We must believe in the Son of God and show forth our faith. Let an unrenewed wretch preach or pray or cast out devils, yet he is a worker of iniquity.”

And when such a one dare come to the wedding feast, dressed only in his own supposed righteousness, a man who lives as a pagan yet who “believes” as a Christian, the Lord Jesus tells us what his fate will be.

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

To own Christ with one’s mouth, yet deny Him with the worldly

affections of the heart, is to mock Him. And God is not mocked. This is the man then who comes to the feast in his ordinary apparel of his own devising.

And what then is such behavior? It is to hold the King and His Son with derision, scorn, and contempt. It is to regard a high honor extended by the King as an inconvenience. It is *pretense* because this hypocrite *pretends to honor the King by his attendance when in fact his life and true mindset dishonor the King.*

Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

Manton again, addressing the hypocrite:

“Therefore while you usurp the name of Christians and join in conjunction with the visible church of Christ without a new heart and life, the one part of your profession (you mind and conduct) condemns the other.”

What motivates the man to come to the church, making a lip profession of Christ, yet clothed in the rags of his own “righteousness”? It is simply so that such a man might live more securely in his sins, deceiving himself and others of his piety.

2 Timothy 3:5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

### **The Certainty of Being Found Out**

Matthew 22:11-12 “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.

This man believed that he would be welcomed. That his own self-made works garment would cover him. Most likely he was self-deceived and really thought his garment was just as good as the ones provided by the King.

But it was not so. The searching, all-seeing eye of the Lord will always see through the hypocrite's disguise. Not a single one has crept unnoticed into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 23:27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Let's hear from Manton once again:

"You may deceive men, stop the mouths of men, color over your sin, veil and blind man's eyes, and even gain their approval. Men may hold you to be innocent, but the all-

seeing eye of God will find you out. You cannot escape His accurate search. There is no possibility of casting a mist over the eyes of God."

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (13) And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Manton goes on:

God *loves* to uncover hypocrites – "*His wickedness shall be showed before the whole congregation*" (Proverbs 26:26). The hypocrite creeping into His church fancies that He cannot see. *'They say, The Lord shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard it.'* (Psalm 94:7). These kind as this unclad man at the feast crowd into the Lord's house out of custom, or to make a show of serving Him for

their evil ends. They believe that the Lord is satisfied with their superficial duties, but God will expose them and pull off their disguise. They shall be seen as they really are. The Lord's anger is more kindled against this kind because they profess such a nearness to Him and to claim that they are worthy."

And Manton continues – I cannot say it better than him:

"Hypocrisy is hateful to God, and especially hypocrisy in coming to His gospel feast. This kind of hypocrite dares God and puts Him to the test whether He will discover such a man for what he truly is. Ananias and Sapphira's in is called a lying to the Holy Spirit, because they pretended to be motivated by the Spirit's moving in them. If a man responds to the invitation of the gospel and appears to solemnly dedicate himself to Christ so that he might have the riches of heaven instead of hell, *and yet if all of it should be found out to be a lie, a cheat and counterfeit, surely this man will have no part in heaven.*"

How might God, even before the Day of Christ, discover those whose profession of Christ is false? Of course the Lord knows the hearts of everyone, but there are times and ways in which He exposes the man at the feast who has no true righteousness. For example:

1. God sometimes brings very hard trials to us to test the genuineness of our faith. Think, for example:

Matthew 13:20-21 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, (21) yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

2. And sometimes the Lord allows error and heresy to come amongst us. Who will hear Christ's voice and who will chase after the false shepherd?



1 Corinthians 11:19 for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.

3. And of course, our faith is tested when the hour of our death comes. The man whose profession of faith is false – such as this man at the King’s feast, will have no comfort in that hour, while Christ’s true people are comforted by His very presence in the valley of the shadow of death.

“Christ will not say to the rich man, ‘Where are you full barns or bags?’ He will not say to the wise man, ‘Where are your philosophies and insights?’ No. He will say to ALL – ‘Where is your wedding garment?’”

Do YOU have it? Are you clothed in the righteousness of Christ – a righteousness which does not originate in you, but in Christ alone. Be sure of this, the Lord will see each of us for what we really are when we come before Him.

## **The Lord Jesus’ Warning of the Hypocrite’s Doom and Punishment**

Christ’s words are severe:

Matthew 22:12-13 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.’

*“And he was speechless.”* People fancy what they are going to say to God when they are called before Him. You have heard them. “I will tell Him about the 51% good things I did in my life.” “I will say to Him.....” and on it goes.

But what is really going to happen? The Lord’s all-knowing eye will see their rags and when He asks them, “how is it that you dare come here to my feast without the wedding garment of righteousness which My Son purchased with His

blood?” And they will be speechless.

Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. (20) For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Think carefully about the Lord Jesus' words as He passes sentence:

‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

There is a twofold purpose here –

1) to warn us all against this trap of hypocrisy, of being a fake and counterfeit within the visible church. MANY have and will perish in that outer darkness by this very delusion.

2) To cause us to give thanks everyday to the Lord for our great salvation in Christ which He has provided. Without this righteousness of Christ we all would have met the same fate.

This is by no means the only time the Lord Jesus showed us the fate of these wicked ones:

Matthew 24:48-51 But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ (49) and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, (50) the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know (51) and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 8:11-12 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, (12) while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there



will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

### **Why Bind Him Hand and Foot?**

This imagery speaks of the perpetuity of this wicked person’s residence in that outer darkness. Bound hand and foot. Unable to ever escape.

### **Cast Him into the Outer Darkness**

The fate of the wicked is indeed terrible. Outer darkness. The utmost darkness, devoid of even one ray of light. This speaks of being cast out from the presence of the Lord who is Light. It reminds us of the darkness that reigned before God said “Let there be light.” A region of a complete God-vacuum.

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— (6) since indeed God considers it just to repay with

affliction those who afflict you, (7) and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels (8) in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (9) **They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,** (10) when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

The sentence is quite fitting – those who insisted “no God for me!” will have their demand granted. No God. Out of the presence of the One who is the source and giver of EVERY good thing. Cast out from the One who is the life and light of men.

For all who are in Christ, who are clothed with His wedding garment

of righteousness, there is quite a different destination:

Psalms 16:9-11 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. (10) For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. (11) You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Life, joy, pleasures forevermore.

Weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Two destinies. One or the other.

Listen to Manton once more as we close:

“Nothing does more concern you than that you should not be Christians in name only, in vain, and profess Christ but only to your loss. Haman boasted that he was invited to the queen’s feast, but from that feast he was taken away to execution; so many pride

themselves with the name of christian, some even are very energetic in performing external duties of religion, and yet only increase their danger.

Get this wedding garment from the King’s wardrobe! Not one of us enters with world clothed, and we remain naked in spirit until Christ clothes us with His righteous robe.

Keep your garment undefiled and unspotted from the world. Wash your garments often in the blood of the Lamb.

Isaiah 1:18-20 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (19) If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; (20) but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

