

Without a Wedding Garment

Lesson • 23: (Mt. 22:1-14; Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 19:7-8; Lk. 12:35-37; COL 307-324; GC 421-431)

In this lesson we will study the parable of the king's feast. As in the story of the unfaithful husbandmen, this parable blends tragedy with triumph. As the story develops, the original invited guests end up outside the wedding hall while those who were invited from the highways and byways end up enjoying the bliss of fellowship with the bridegroom. Let's begin by examining the textual and historical setting of the parable.

Textual Setting and Historical Stages

1. Where and to whom did Jesus tell this parable? "And when he was come into the _____ And when the chief _____ and _____ had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of _____" (Mt. 21:45, 23)

Note: Matthew 21-22 makes it abundantly clear that Jesus told this parable primarily to the chief priests and the Pharisees in the temple (Mt. 21:23, 45). It also leaves no doubt that the parable was told the same day as the parable of the vineyard—the day after the triumphal entry (Mt. 21:33-47).

2. Even though the parable does not specifically identify the king, who do you think he represents?
_____.
3. Who is represented by the king's son? _____.
4. What is symbolized by the first servants who were sent out to "to call them that were bidden to the wedding"? "In those days came _____ the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ' _____ ye for the _____ of heaven is at hand. . . . These _____ sent Jesus forth, and commanded them, saying. . . . Preach, saying, the _____ of heaven is at hand. . . . After these things the Lord appointed other _____ also, and sent them two and two _____ his face into every city and place, whither he _____ would _____." (Mt. 3:1-2; Mt. 10:6, 7; Lk. 10:1). Who is was the "friend of the bridegroom"? _____ (Jn. 3:29), In Mt. 9:15 who is spoken of as the bridegroom? _____.
5. What happened after the message of the first servants was rebuffed by the Hebrew nation? "Again, he sent forth _____ servants to _____ them that were bidden to the wedding; and they would _____ come." (Mt. 22:3). A second call was sent to the same people who had rejected the first call.
6. What is meant by the fact that this second group of servants was sent after the oxen and fatlings had been killed? "This was the message borne to the _____ nation after the _____ of Christ." (COL 308)

7. How did the original recipients of the first call respond to the second call? “But they made _____ of it, and went their _____, one to his farm, another to his merchandise; and the _____ took his servants, and entreated them spitefully and _____ them.” (Mt. 21:5-6)

Note: The Jewish nation not only ignored the gospel message which was preached by the apostles after the death of Jesus. They actually mistreated some of the messengers. Peter and John were beaten and thrown into prison (Acts 4-5), Saul of Tarsus instigated a persecution against the Christians and after his conversion became persecuted himself [Acts 8:1-4; Acts 13:26-52; II Cor. 11:24-33] Other messengers were killed (Stephen [Acts 7], James [Acts 12:1-3]). Jesus had predicted that this would happen after His death (Mt. 23:34-35)

8. What is represented by the third call to the wedding feast? “The third call to the feast represents the _____ of the gospel to the _____.” (COL 309)

Note: This giving of the gospel to the Gentiles was predicted by Jesus in Mt. 21:43 and was actually realized Peter in Acts 10-11 and by Paul in Acts 13:45-47. After the rejection of the Jewish theocracy, the message was to go to the “highways and the byways”, that is, to all the areas of the Roman Empire.

9. On which historical occasion did God [the king] send his armies to destroy those murderers and burn up their city (Mt. 21:7-8) “The judgment _____ came upon the Jews in the destruction of _____ and the scattering of the nation.” (COL 309)

Note: The third call to the wedding feast has been proclaimed for the last two thousand years. During this time, the gospel has gone into all the world, calling men and women to repent and receive Jesus.

The Genuine and the Counterfeit

10. In which other parable did Jesus present the idea of both good and bad being gathered in by the gospel call? _____ (Mt. 13:47-50). When will the good be separated from the bad? _____?
11. What is represented by the “good and the bad” guests in this parable and what is meant by the process of examination? “By the king’s examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of _____. The guests at the gospel feast are those who _____ to serve God, those whose _____ are written in the book of life. But not all who _____ to be Christians are true _____.” (COL 310)
12. When will this examination of the guests take place? “Before the final _____ is given, it must be decided who are _____ to share the inheritance of the righteous. The decision must be made _____ to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven.” (COL 310).

Note: This pre-advent investigative judgment is clearly depicted in Revelation 14:7. The reward phase of this judgment is a separate event which is described in Revelation 22:12.

13. Where does this judgment take place and where are God's professed people while it transpires? "It is while men are still _____ upon the earth that the work of investigative judgment takes place in the _____ of heaven. The lives of all His professed followers pass in _____ before God. All are examined according to the _____ of the _____ of heaven, and according to his _____ the destiny of each is _____ fixed." (COL 310)
14. Is there any Biblical evidence to corroborate what Ellen White states in question # 13? Jesus said to His disciples: "Let your loins be _____ about, and your _____ burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that _____ for their lord, when he will _____ from the wedding. . . . Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he _____ shall find _____." (Lk. 12:35-37)
15. **Thought Question:** According to Ephesians 2:8-9, salvation is by grace through faith in Christ. If this is true, why will the verdict of the judgment be pronounced on the basis of our works?

(Carefully study Mt. 16:27; II Cor. 11:15; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-14; James 2:14-26; Rev. 22:12; Ecl. 12:13-14)

Note: Ellen White explains: "Righteousness is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine." (COL 312)

The Garment Gift

16. What is the original Biblical source for the idea of garments covering the shame of man's nakedness? _____
_____ (Study carefully COL 310-311)
17. Though the parable itself does not explicitly state it, who provided the wedding garments and of what material did they consist? "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of _____ and _____ them." (Gen. 3:21)
18. What is symbolized by the wedding garment? "By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the d_____ and spotless _____ which Christ's true followers will possess." (COL 310)
19. Is there any Biblical corroboration for what Ellen White states in question # 16? "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their _____, and made them _____ in the blood of the Lamb. . . . And to her it was _____ that she should be

arrayed in fine _____, clean and _____; for the fine linen is the _____ of _____.” (Rev. 7:14; 19:8)

Imputed or Imparted Righteousness?

20. What is the difference between Christ’s imputed and Christ’s imparted righteousness? “The righteousness by which we are _____ is _____; the righteousness by which we are _____ is _____. The first is our _____ to heaven, the second is our _____ for heaven.” (Messages to Young People, p. 32)
21. Does the garment in Christ’s parable represent Christ’s imputed or Christ’ imparted righteousness? “It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished _____, that through faith is _____ to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.” (COL 310)
22. How much of this righteousness can we take credit for? “This robe, woven in the loom of _____ has in it not one _____ of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect _____, and this character He offers to _____ to us. . . Everything that we ourselves can do is _____ by sin.” (COL 311)
23. More fully, what does the impartation of this garment mean? “By His perfect obedience He has made it _____ for every human being to _____ God’s commandments. When we _____ ourselves to Christ, the _____ is united with His heart, the _____ merged with His will, the _____ becomes one with His mind, the _____ are brought into captivity to Him; we live His _____. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.” (COL 312)
24. What practical means has God provided to make it possible for us to reflect Christ’s character? “The truth is to be planted in the _____. It is to control the mind and regulate the _____. The whole character must be stamped with the divine _____. Every jot and tittle of the _____ of God is to be brought into the daily practice.” (COL 314)
25. What Biblical corroboration do we have for what Ellen White states in question # 24? “Thy _____ have I hid in mine _____, that I might not _____ against thee.” (Ps. 119:11)

The Speechless Guest

26. When the king came in to examine the guests, he found a man without the wedding garment which he himself had provided. What did the king say and how did the guest respond? “Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a _____ garment? And he was _____.” (Mt. 22:12)

Note: It is obvious that the examination of the guests will not take place after the second coming of Jesus when God’s people are in heaven. That is to say, no one will be able to sneak

into heaven only to find out later that he does not belong there. Those who profess the name of Jesus will be judged by their records in heaven while they are personally on earth.

27. Who is represented by the man without the wedding garment? “The man who came to the feast without a wedding garment represents the _____ of many in our world _____.” (COL 315)

Note: This man does not represent unbelievers. He claimed to have a perfect right to be present in the heavenly festivities. Yet a close examination of his character revealed that he had not made the necessary preparation.

28. Some Christians boastfully affirm that the law of God was abolished. How does Ellen White respond? “By His life on earth He [Jesus] _____ the law of God. By His death he _____ it. He gave His life as a sacrifice, not to _____ God’s law, not to create a lower _____, but that justice might be maintained, that the law might be shown to be _____, that it might stand fast forever.” (COL 314)

29. What did Jesus prove by His sinless life on earth? “By His _____ obedience He proved that _____ and _____ combined can obey every one of God’s precepts. . . . When a soul receives Christ, he receives _____ to live the life of Christ.” (COL 314)

30. **Thought Question:** Could Jesus expect us to overcome as He overcame if He had a different human nature than ours? _____

31. Of what sort are those who are found without the wedding garment? “The profess to be Christians, and lay claim to the _____ and privileges of the gospel; yet they feel no need of a _____ of character. They have never felt true _____ for sin. They do not realize their need of Christ or _____ faith in Him. They have not overcome their _____ or _____ tendencies to wrong-doing.” (COL 315)

32. **Thought Question:** What do you suppose Ellen White means by the following statement: “Many who call themselves Christians are mere human _____.” (COL 315; paragraph # 2 of page 316 will help you answer this question)

33. What indictment did Ellen White offer of Christendom in her day? “The professed followers of Christ are no longer a _____ and _____ people [what would she say today?]. The line of demarcation is _____. The people are subordinating themselves to the _____, to its practices, its _____, its selfishness.” (COL 316)

34. What is the fundamental problem with these unconverted people? “All these expect to be saved by Christ’s _____, while they refuse to live His self-sacrificing _____. They extol the riches of free _____, and attempt to cover themselves with an

_____ of righteousness, hoping to screen their _____ of character.”
(COL 316)

35. What will the righteousness of Christ not cover? “The righteousness of Christ will not cover one _____ sin.” (COL 316)

36. What do some Christians do today which they will not be able to do in the judgment? “Men may now _____ their defects of _____, but in that day they will offer no _____.” (COL 317)

Note: Some excuses people provide today are: “I grew up in the wrong environment,” “my heredity made it impossible for me to obey,” “Jesus overcame in a different nature than mine,” “we are not under law but under grace,” “Jesus kept the law for me,” “the devil made me do it,” “all you need is love, not law”. When our lives come in review before God, those who have uttered these vain excuses will be left speechless!!

37. List some of the advantages that Christians have today compared with the Jews of antiquity.

_____. (These are found in COL 317)

38. What evidence does Ellen White provide to show that the Holy Spirit performs His work on earth through the ministration of the angels? “We _____ back the army of evil angels. We sent brightness and _____ into the souls of men, _____ their memory of the love of God expressed in Jesus. We _____ their eyes to the cross of Christ. Their hearts were deeply _____ by a sense of the sin that crucified the Son of God. They were _____.” (COL 318)

39. How attractive will the world appear in the day of final reckoning? “The world’s pleasures, _____, and honors will not then seem so _____. Men will then see that the righteousness they despised is _____ of value.” (COL 318) When will men be able to see this reality? (Notice the Bible text Ellen White employs in COL 318)

40. When is the period of probation granted to us? “There will be no _____ probation
in which to
prepare for
eternity. It is in
this _____ that
we are to put on
the robe of
Christ’s
righteousness.
This is our
_____ opportunity to

form characters
for the home
which Christ has
made ready for
those who
_____ His
commandments.”
(COL 319)