

The Wedding Garment

Question to me from a faithful Catholic

Father,

Both versions of Sunday's Gospel refer to the servants as going into the street to invite the "bad and the good alike." I'm not trying to be picky but if they invited the bad, how could they be expected to have the proper wedding garment? I know you will be able to clarify this for me. God Bless

Opinion from the internet:

Symbolism of the Wedding Garment

Righteousness and Belonging

In biblical times, the wedding garment was a significant symbol representing righteousness and belonging. It was not merely a piece of clothing but a marker of one's spiritual readiness to participate in sacred events, particularly in the context of the Kingdom of God.

Provision by the Host

- **The wedding garment was often provided by the host, ensuring that all guests were appropriately attired for the occasion.**
- This practice emphasized inclusivity, allowing individuals from various backgrounds to partake in the celebration.

The Parable of the Wedding Feast

Context in Scripture

The concept of the wedding garment is prominently featured in the parable of the wedding feast found in Matthew 22:1-14. In this parable:

- The king represents God, and the wedding feast symbolizes the invitation to His Kingdom.
- Guests who were invited but did not wear the appropriate garment were cast out, illustrating the necessity of being spiritually prepared.
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Spiritual Significance

The wedding garment signifies the spiritual readiness required to enter the Kingdom of God. It reflects the righteousness that believers must possess, which is often understood as being provided by God through faith in Christ. This garment is essential for acceptance into the heavenly banquet, highlighting that mere invitation is not sufficient without the proper attire of righteousness.

Fr. Perozich comments —

If the bad are invited, it would be an opportunity to repent and to put on the wedding garment provided by Jesus.

Look at the “bad” at St. Matthew the tax collector’s feast where he and fellow evil tax collectors were present. Conversion happened there at least for Matthew at the invitation of Jesus. A wedding garment was provided.

Look at the “bad” where the woman crashed the pharisee’s banquet to wash, dry, kiss, and anoint the feet of Jesus. Conversion happened for her at the presence of Jesus. Jesus provided her a wedding garment.

Look at the woman caught in adultery. With the presence and forgiveness of Jesus, she was saved from death and offered conversion, and He gave her a wedding garment.

Every human being who approaches the baptismal font is in the state of original sin. Baptism cleanses this, makes the baptized an adopted son of God, fills him with grace. In the ritual, a white garment is provided for the newly baptized symbolizing outwardly the righteousness granted by Jesus and the inward wedding garment of the soul.

Still when we come to the Eucharistic banquet, the wedding feast of the lamb, each person needs to have on his wedding garment, a soul free from mortal sin, a soul ready to receive Jesus more profoundly into the soul.

Jesus provides the wedding garment at baptism. We wear it throughout our lives. If we soil it, we need to have it cleansed in the sacrament of penance in order to wear it always, not just to come to holy communion, but to live in the wedding banquet 24/7 with Jesus.
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Thank you! That makes it much clearer. God Bless

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