

Matthew 22:1-14
GETTING INTO “THE BIG DANCE”

This parable by Jesus focuses on a possible real life happening of his time. A king’s daughter gets married. The royal dad invites his upper crust friends and acquaintances to a lavish reception. The elites accept his invitations. On the day of the wedding, however, they all offer excuses why they cannot attend.

The king had made all the food and entertainment arrangements and didn’t want to waste them and not have a party. He went to a skid row location and invited those folks to his soirée. When the host father discovered a man not properly attired for the occasion, **“Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?”**, he has him tossed out and also severely punished

Why would the host invite people from beggarly quarters and then get angry because someone wore the wrong clothes? This question troubles many people. Street people can’t afford tuxedos. They get their clothes from the Goodwill or trash cans. It seems unfair. Why would Jesus approve how this host acted?

Lost in the story is the custom of the day. It was impossible for most travelers to carry changes of clothes and to have them fresh when they arrived. Hosts often provided robes for their wedding guests. As travelers arrived at the door, they cleaned themselves and put on the host-provided garments. It’s true that the man probably couldn’t afford his own wedding garment, but he didn’t even bother to wear the clean robe the host generously arranged for him. Many of us are still trying to wear self-righteous clothes and are not wearing Jesus’ grace attire. Others think they should be able to continue to live as they please, and not behave as God requires. How can we who have died to sin still live in it? If we don’t doff that old stuff soon, we might find ourselves eternally on the outside with that ingrate.

Beggar in Nazareth, Israel August 1980.

Picture by Bob Blair

**PO Box 304
Marcus, IA 51035
www.robertblairbooks.com**

