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# IT'S NOT SELF- IMPROVEMENT

Pastor Rick Lee



For God chose us in  
Him before the  
creation of the world  
to be holy and  
blameless in His  
sight.

## Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus illustrated the reality of heaven's kingdom realm by saying,  
“There once was a king who arranged an extravagant wedding feast for his son. On the day the festivities were set to begin, he sent his servants to summon all the invited guests, but they chose not to come.

So the king sent even more servants to inform the invited guests, saying, 'Come, for the sumptuous feast is now ready!

The oxen and fattened cattle have been killed and everything is prepared, so come! Come to the wedding feast for my son and his bride!'

But the invited guests were not impressed. One was preoccupied with his business; another went off to his farming enterprise. And the rest seized the king's messengers and shamefully mistreated them, and even killed them. This infuriated the king! So he sent his soldiers to execute those murderers and had their city burned to the ground.

Then the king said to his servants,  
‘The wedding feast is ready, yet  
those who had been invited to  
attend didn’t deserve the honor.  
Now I want you to go into the  
streets and alleyways and invite  
anyone and everyone you find to  
come and enjoy the wedding  
feast in honor of my son.’

So the servants went out into the city streets and invited everyone to come to the wedding feast, good and bad alike, until the banquet hall was crammed with people! Now, when the king entered the banquet hall, he looked with glee over all his guests. But then he noticed a guest who was not wearing the wedding robe provided for him.

So he said, 'My friend, how is it that you're here and you're not wearing your wedding garment?' But the man was speechless. Then the king turned to his servants and said, 'Tie him up and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be great sorrow, with weeping and grinding of teeth.' For everyone is invited to enter in, but few respond in excellence."

1. Some paid no attention to the invitation and went off. Thanks, but no thanks.

2. Some went to work in their field. Some went to attend to their business.

Too busy.

**3. The third group violently opposed the invitation and received their punishment.**

**We read much about this group in the Bible. God sent Prophets to Israel telling of the coming Messiah, Jesus. They rejected their message, mistreated them and even killed some of them.**

4. The fourth group were those who were not on the King's chosen list.

That's good news for us.  
That's when the king sent out his messengers to invite all of us, good and bad.

Luke 5:32

He says, “I have not  
come to call those who  
think they are righteous,  
but those who know  
they are sinners and  
need to repent.”

## Colossians 3:9-10, 12

“You have taken off your old self (anger, rage, malice, slander) with its practices and have put on the new self... Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

We are called to take off and put on

## Colossians 3:14

“And over all these things put on love, which binds them together in perfect unity.”

## 2 Corinthians 5:21

“God made Him (Jesus) who had no sin to become sin for us, so that in Him, we might become the righteousness of God.”

Isaiah 61:10

“For He has clothed  
me with garments of  
salvation, and  
arrayed me in a robe  
of righteousness.”

## Revelation 19:6-9

“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.’

Then the angel said to me, Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’”

