



DEVOTIONAL FOR MATTHEW 22-23; MARK 12-13; LUKE 20-21

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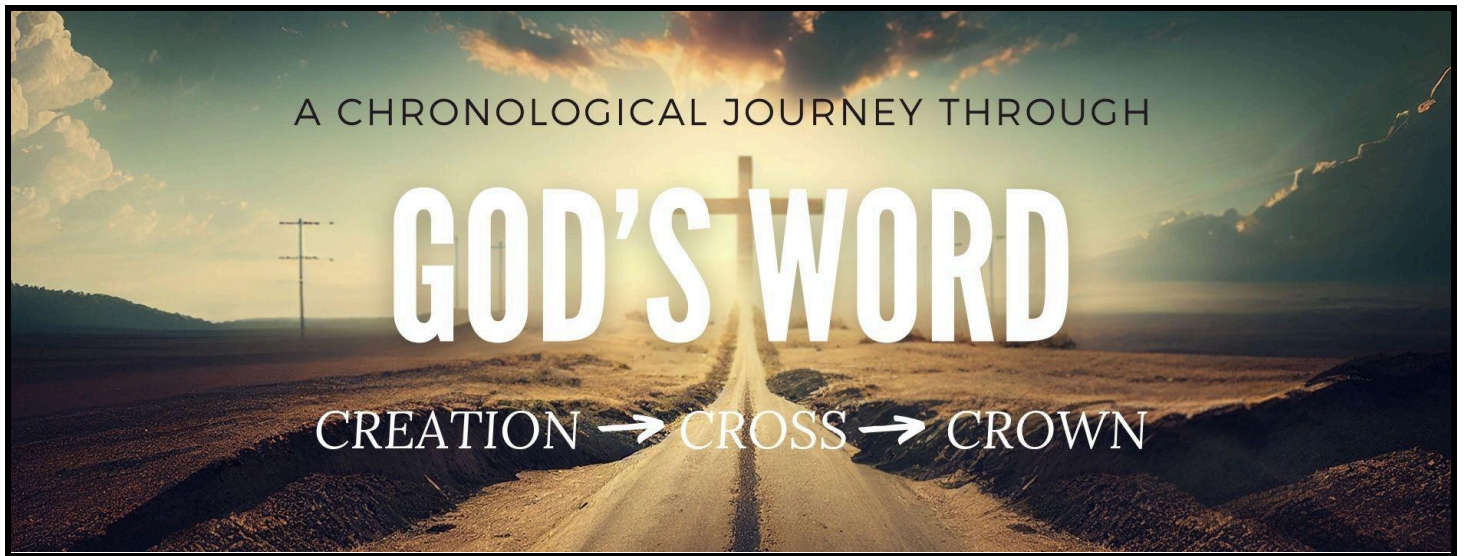
Do you ever get that awkward feeling that you just don't belong in a room when you enter it? I often used to get the feeling that something was out of place when I entered certain places, that something being me. I have always been a bit of an "odd duck" as some of my teachers put it, but over the years I have become more comfortable with my oddities. However, in the house of the Lord I have truly found a place where I belong and I am never the odd man out.

Whenever I read Matthew 22 and The Parable of the Wedding Feast, I cannot help but concentrate on the last part. Starting in verse 11, Jesus tells us the king came in to look at the guests and saw a man with no wedding garment. (Can you imagine crashing the wedding feast of a king?) The king immediately knew that this man stood out and did not belong in the room with all of the other guests. The man had no defense for himself and was left speechless in the presence of the king and his judgment. The man was bound and cast into outer darkness for his sins of being without the covering of the wedding feast.

This parable is a two fold prophecy, the first is the foretelling of the burning of the city of Jerusalem after the rejection of Jesus by the Jews, and the second is the foretelling of our own judgment at the marriage supper if we are not clothed in the righteousness of the blood of Jesus. If we are called and we respond to the invitation of the King to attend the supper and we do not truly know Him, and He does not truly know us, then we will be left without the garments covering us and we will be judged accordingly.

How did this guy "make it past security" and get in to begin with? Well, I think it goes back to Matthew 7:21-22 and some of the churches in Revelation 2. There are many who know the Word and yet they choose to allow the things of the world to cloud their hearts and minds, ultimately producing bad fruit (Matthew 7:19), and the result is always judgment.

We are sojourners in this world and we are supposed to be "odd" to the earth dwellers, but the one place we should belong is in the Kingdom of Heaven. Abide daily with the King, and know that our invitation comes with the wedding garments He provides.



Questions:

1. Do you feel different around non-believers? Should you?
2. What keeps you from abiding daily?
3. Are you prepared to sup at the marriage feast with the King?