

# The Wedding Garment

by David Wilkerson

---

*The sermon emphasizes the importance of practical holiness and the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is given to believers to walk in, and warns against those who claim to be Christians but do not live a life of holiness.*

**Duration:** 39:10

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:33, Matthew 7:21, Matthew 22:1-14, Matthew 24:1-2, Revelation 19:7-9

**Topics:** "Practical Holiness", "Salvation"

---

## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of walking in practical holiness before the Lord. He highlights that not everyone who claims to follow Jesus will enter the kingdom of God, as God takes the matter of holiness seriously. The preacher also mentions that the abundance of money and the widespread dissemination of religious media alone cannot bring salvation. Instead, he encourages individuals to come forward and seek God's intervention for deliverance from sin. The sermon concludes with a reminder of the preacher's responsibility as a pastor to stand before the judgment seat of Christ and deliver the message that God desires, even if it may not always be comfortable or pleasing to everyone.

---

## Transcript

Matthew 22. I hope you brought your Bibles. Don't come to Times Square Church without your Bible, please.

Amen. We have a saying here, if you don't come with your Bible, you're naked. This clothes you.

Amen. In fact, that's what I'm talking about tonight. The wedding garment.

The wedding garment. I found a name for it finally. I didn't have a name for it this morning.

The wedding garment. Let's read the first 14 verses of Matthew. I've got a lot to say tonight and I want to get right to it.

Verse 1. Let's begin reading. Verse 2. Let's pray. Heavenly Father, I ask you tonight to send your Holy Spirit and touch my lips.

Let it burn. Let my lips burn tonight. Let our hearts burn to hear you speak.

Oh God, I pray for Holy Ghost unction. We cast out every evil spirit. We bind everything that's satanic.

And we pray that the sword of the Lord will go forth in love. And then pour in the oil and the unction, the anointing. God, without you, I can't say anything tonight.

Without you, I'm helpless. So come, Lord, with your might and power. Touch us in Jesus' name.

Let the glory of the Lord be in your word. Hallelujah. Convict us and heal us.

In Jesus' name. Amen. Now I've read to you 14 verses here which give you in a capsule the whole story of the gospel.

In this one little 14 verses, you have the gospel. So here you have the call of the Jew, how it was rejected. You have the call of the Gentiles.

You've got a prediction here of Jesus, of the destruction of Jerusalem. And then you have here a picture of how seriously God takes this matter of walking in practical holiness before the Lord. We're going to see that not just everybody that's invited is going to be saved.

Not everybody that comes and says, Lord, Lord, are going to enter in. God looks at it very, very seriously. And we're going to look at it tonight.

Now, the king in this story, you know, is God the Father. You know he's got a feast prepared. Now, this is not the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Because at the marriage supper of the Lamb, nobody's going to be there without a garment. You know that. So it can't be the marriage supper of the Lamb.

So this supper that's being set right now is what God has already provided for the church. We have it right now. We have salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Now, that's the fatted calf. We have joy in the Holy Ghost. We have eternal life.

He has set for the church a table. And by the way, that table is set tonight. And I don't know about you, but I've been eating for almost an hour and 15 minutes.

Did you come to eat tonight? There's an old-fashioned camp meeting song they used to sing when I was a boy in Pennsylvania. Every time they would eat, they would sing. In fact, we hated it as kids because we had to stand there and wait until they go.

We're starving and they're singing this song. Come and dine. The master called us, come and dine.

He invites his chosen people, come and dine. He who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine, invites the chosen people, come and dine. And they'd sing it 20 times.

Come and dine. The master called us, come and dine. Well, there's a lot of truth in that.

This is the church. He's speaking to the church at the table that he spread. Isaiah said, And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the leaves.

David said, They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house. Thou shalt make them drink of the rivers of thy pleasure. We have that privilege right now.

He's talking about the church. He's talking about walking with Him in fullness. He's talking about eating of Christ.

Jesus said, My body is food, my blood is drink. Unless you eat my body, drink my blood, you have no part in me. He said.

Right? The servants went out in this story. And the Bible says, They sent for the servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding, and they would not come. That's in verse 3. Now, he's speaking about the call to the Jews.

Do you remember that all the prophets were talking about the coming of Jesus, weren't they? And then he sends John the Baptist. And John the Baptist stands out there calling the Jews to repentance. But the very man who called the Jews to repentance, and they respected and admired him, they rejected the Christ that he was the forerunner of.

He said, What is coming after me? A mighty deliverer. And though they respected John as a prophet, they rejected the Christ that he was speaking of. The second call, you see it.

Again, he sent forth other servants saying, Tell them which are bidden. Behold, I have prepared my dinner. My ox and my fatlings are killed.

Now, all things are ready. Now, those are the apostles. What do you mean, all things are ready? That means Jesus has already died.

He's gone to the cross. Salvation's been completed. And now they're saying, Everything is finished.

The lamb has been slain. There's a full meal. You can come and be satisfied in Jesus.

He can satisfy every longing of your heart. And it was the invitation of all the apostles, and all the early fathers to come and dine, come and eat on Jesus. Let him be everything in your life.

And again, the Jews rejected him. They totally rejected the call of Christ. They rejected Jesus.

The Bible said, The remnant took his servants and entreated them spitefully and slew them. They began to murder. That's Stephen.

They killed Stephen, calling on the name of the Lord. They killed Philip. He was the... Or rather, James.

They killed James, who was the bishop in Jerusalem. They killed eleven of the apostles. Eleven of the apostles were martyrs, that were killed and murdered by these very ones that were invited to come to the feast.

And when the king heard thereof, he was angry, and he sent forth his armies and destroyed those martyrs and burned up their city. Now what Jesus is talking about, he's prophesying. Forty years later, it happened.

In forty years, the Roman army came down and they became the armies of the Lord. The Assyrian army became a rod in the hand of God against the Israelites. And God uses these wicked armies as his rod of

correction.

That's why they're called his army. He sent his army into Jerusalem. The Roman army under Titus came in and they ransacked Jerusalem.

They burned it to the ground. The temple was burned. Thousands were killed and murdered.

The city was strafed. And everything Jesus talked about in this verse came to pass. Forty years later, the king heard thereof, he was angry, he sent forth his army, destroyed those martyrs and burned up their city.

Then he said to his servants, the wedding is still ready. See, the feast is prepared, and there's nobody there. None of the guests were coming.

And so, he sends out, he says, the wedding is ready, but they which are bidden were not worthy. So go, therefore, into the highways as many as ye shall find bid to the marriage. This is the Gentile.

This is the call to the Gentiles. Oh, aren't you glad that Jesus included we Gentiles in this thing? Otherwise, we could have never been a part of this glorious thing. Again, he sent forth his servants and said, all things are ready.

Go, therefore, into the highways and as many as ye shall find bid to the wedding. All right, I want you to follow me very closely now. God turned to the Gentiles and this was a mixture of the guests that come in.

Look at this in verse 10. Keep it open there. Look at verse 10.

So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all as many as they found both bad and good and the wedding was furnished with guests. What a mixture this was. You know, you look around right now.

We've gone out in the streets of New York City. We've gone out all summer. We have people that love God so much they go out and invite people in.

Some of you come to this church tonight because somebody invited you. Already met three out in the lobby. We shook hands with.

Somebody invited you here tonight. That's exactly what this is. They were told by the Lord go out and invite anybody who will to come in and sit at the table.

Come and learn of Jesus. Come and eat and partake of the things of God. And he said they were both good and they were bad and there was a mixture.

You say, well, Brother Dave, are there hypocrites here tonight in this church? Yes, there are hypocrites in this church. Are there phonies in this church? Yes, there are phonies in this church. Are there people that live in a double life? Yes, there are people living a double life.

But we're not the judges of that. We're told to go out and invite anybody. Whosoever will.

We go out in the streets. We say, everything is open. The feast is ready.

Come. Come. It doesn't matter whether you're alcoholic or drunk.

It doesn't matter whether you're rich or poor, white or black or any other color. Come. That's the invitation of the gospel.

Whosoever will, they come. Of course, we all believe that, don't we? Often, though, the rich and the noble and the well-known and those who think they're wise in their own eyes usually don't accept this invitation. In fact, Paul said something that I just can't shake out of my mind.

I just want to read it to you. Don't go there, but listen to me. I read it to you I'm reading from 1 Corinthians 1 chapter 26 and 27 verses.

Just listen to it. Paul said, You see, brethren, your calling, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

And God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty. And He's chosen the base things of the world and the things which are despised have God chosen. Yes, and uh the things that are nothing to bring to naught the things that are that no flesh had glory in His presence.

You know, the most unlikely thing God could ever do was to pick up a country preacher like myself down in the hills of Pennsylvania. When I came to New York years ago, I weighed 115 pounds. When I turned sideways, it looked like I was raptured.

Someone said, when he drinks lemonade, he looks like a thermometer. Listen, I've had that all my life. I've gained 40 pounds since then.

I remember when I first came to New York, I had Mr. Universe, who was a Christian, knock on our door. Great big monster of a man. And he said, you brothers and sisters, and he picked me up and he said, God sent me to you.

I said, why? He said, I'm going to start you on a muscle building program and I'm going to build you up so that these guys on the street won't kick you around. I said, if I looked like you, everybody would try to kick me around. They'd try to threaten me.

I said, I'm not a threat to anybody. Leave me alone. He takes the weak things.

He went down in the country hills of Pennsylvania and found somebody who didn't know any better. Isn't he? Isn't that the way God works? He found a basement. I'll tell you what, when God put this church together, he did just what he's talking about right here.

This city is full of cathedrals. By the way, there's one down here around Madison Avenue, an Episcopal cathedral. It's got a sign there.

It's really a sign about donations and if you don't give donations soon, they might shut the doors. And you see, that's the church where you go just to be seen. That's the church where you go if you want to represent.

I'm not putting down Episcopalians. Don't get me wrong. There are some good Episcopalian churches.

Where there are, I don't know, but there are. I'm not trying to be facetious. There are some spirit-filled Episcopalians on fire for God.

I know that. I don't know where they're at. I'm saying that honestly.

There are many of them. Some of them have been writing to me and I'm in touch with some of these. Where there are in New York, I haven't found them, honestly.

But you know, the thing that God did here at Times Square Church, he goes and picks up a skinny preacher from Pennsylvania. He picks up a country Baptist preacher from the hills of Kentucky. I don't even know how to describe Don.

I'm not going to go into this. But you're not much either. Now, I'm not, listen to me.

I'm not being facetious. But I don't care how rich or how poor you may be. We may have five or six people here who could be considered maybe partly wealthy.

But the majority of us here, you're just like me. We're all together. And outside of Jesus, we're nothing.

We're absolutely nothing. We are base. We are the poor.

Paul said we're the offscouring of the earth. We're the scum of the earth as far as the world is concerned. They look down.

I'll tell you what. If you just go in and tell them, just carry your Bible around and see how they look down their nose at you. Take your sandwich out at your desk and just bow your head and pray.

Scum. The offscouring of the earth. The base things of the world.

He said, you see your calling, brother. There are not many among you that are noble, that are wealthy, that are rich. But he said, God's taken the foolish things of the world and confounded the wise.

And I've gone home after some meetings and said, God, how can you build a church on what's coming to Times Square? I'm going to build a church with us. I am not an educated man. Bob's the only one that's got half an education.

Gary's had one year of Bible school and he dropped out so he can come and join me preach. You went through school perhaps. Friends, I'm not being facetious, but listen.

I came to church the other night and I'm not trying to embarrass this young man but he came up to me so excited. He was so excited. He said, Brother David, I'm going to try to say this as tastefully as I can.

He said, I'm so excited. I won a victory last night. He said, on the way home from the meeting.

The other night, I was on the subway and a woman caught my eye and I went home with her. And I didn't commit adultery but just before I was about to do something very bad, the Holy Spirit came on me and I ran. He said, I'm so excited.

I want to testify about it. And I went home and I thought what kind of a man goes home with a strange woman? And I thought, Lord, you're building a church with him? And yes, he is. That young man, I think he's here tonight and that young man got... I went home again to rejoice and thank God for this victory.

Thank God for this. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

There are some of you sitting here right now been saved from all kinds of sins. Some of you... Your marriage was messed up, wasn't it? You almost made a fool out of yourself. You messed it up.

You were living in sin. You were living foolishly. And the Lord saved you.

The Lord transformed your life. But there was still nothing in the sight of the world. Nothing.

But God said, I'll take the foolish things. Go out in the highways and hedges and invite them in. And God's going to build a church with the offscaling of New York City.

He's doing that everywhere. You don't... I'll tell you what. If you want to go to a church where people have reputations and you can go there and look around and say, hey, there's famous so-and-so.

There's famous so-and-so. You're in the wrong place. They're welcome here.

The rich are welcome here. The poor are welcome here. And if anyone says, well, how many blacks, how many whites? Our favorite expression is, we never noticed.

The church that I like to be a part of is a church that doesn't have any color lines. Hallelujah. But God is going to confound the wise.

You know that word confound means to astonish? I'd like this church to be known as the first church of astonishment. The most amazing thing that's happening in New York City that God is putting people together. It's an amazing thing.

There are some people here that are... that I could tell you that... We have people that are able to write out a check for \$50,000 because they got one last week from somebody in this congregation but sits down with former drug addicts, alcoholics, completed, cured, healed prostitutes and love it and not sitting there judging anybody saying, why am I not sitting at first so-and-so church? Well, brother, sister, you're sitting in the first church of astonishment. God says, I'll take the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. Hallelujah.

Invite everybody in. Yes. That's where the church stops.

You know, that's where most people stop their gospel message. Whosoever will may come. Invite everybody in.

Yes, but that's not where it stops. And this is where I've got to show you Jesus. Jesus was telling this parable and I believe it suddenly dawned on Him.

He's telling this to the Pharisees and the scribes and He's saying, you've turned Him down, so I'm sending a people out. Invite anyone, whosoever will. And suddenly, I know God in the flesh knew their minds.

That was just going to be just an easy believism. But before that could set into their mind, Jesus adds another episode to this parable and I'm so glad He did. It's verse 11.

And when the king came in to see the guest, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment. Now, Jesus is building on an eastern custom. The eastern custom was that a wealthy man, if he had a marriage feast for his son, invited guests and he had specially designed robes.

Some of them were very elaborate, some of them very simple linen robes. And everybody was given a robe at the door and everybody came in and it was a great insult if you did not accept that robe. That robe also was a gift.

And you were to wear it during the ceremony, during the supper. In fact, some of these celebrations lasted three days. And Jesus is building on that eastern custom.

And He's saying, this wedding is given and there's a man that comes in and he goes right past the servant at the door and he turns down this white robe. He refuses to walk into this place with this white robe. And there he is sitting at the table, mingling with people, fellowshiping, saying, isn't this wonderful? Isn't this great? Somebody came and invited me to this church.

I'm so happy. I've got friends here now. My life has been... This is just wonderful.

Man, I love the preaching. Everything's fine. I've got friends now I've never had before.

Thank God somebody cared enough for me but go out and get me on the street and bring me in here. Tell me about this place. He's sitting there.

Everybody's got a robe on. And by the way, this robe is the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. This robe is practical holiness.

It's practical holiness. It's walking in the holiness of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's given to the saints according to Revelation to be adorned in white robes.

To walk in white before the Lord. Now, to walk in white does not mean that you have to wait for the Merry Supper of the Lamb to get your white robe. I have my white robe right now.

It doesn't cover up anything. You don't wear it to cover up anything because the blood washes everything clean and then the Lord takes those filthy rags and burns them and He gives you His robe of righteousness. But you're to walk in practical holiness.

But you see, this man walks right in, right past and he's sitting there. He's eating. He's fellowshiping.

Who is this man? The king comes in and his eyes pierce. He looks. Everybody's got the robe on.

But there's a man sitting there. And he's eating. He's fellowshiping as if there's nothing wrong.

And he has no wedding garment on. He sticks out in the crowd. Who is this man? Well, his name is Joe.

I know that because Joe came to me a few years, a number of years ago. One of our drug addict converts. He'd been at the center for about three months.

The Lord did a good work. He was no longer using drugs. His wife had asked him to come home.

I'll never forget the day he came to my office. He said, Brother Dave, I'm going home. He had originally thought he was going to go to Bible school.

He said, I don't want to go to Bible school. He said, I'll tell you what. I can't take it here anymore.

It's too strict. He said, I can't read my Bible under the pressure that you people have. You're reading it all the time.

Chapel every morning. Prayer all the time. He said, I don't believe God's that strict.

I don't remember his exact words, but what he was saying, I'm going to go home. I'm going to get a job. Go back to my lady, he called her.

Go back to my lady. He said, I'll get a job. I'm going to be a good citizen.

He said, I want to thank you, Brother Dave. You people have done me a lot of good. You cured me.

Well, there's the first thing that was wrong. I knew he didn't understand. We didn't cure him.

Jesus did in the first place. But he said, you people cured me, and I'm okay now. But he said, I'll tell you what.

I'm going to get a job. And he said, I'm going to get just a bag of heroin on Fridays. I'm just going to shoot up on weekends.

Just be a weekender. And he said, maybe a bag for my lady. And he said, Friday and Saturday, that's all.

Just recreation heroin. Recreation heroin. And then he said, Sundays I'll go to church.

He said, probably just Sunday mornings. He had it all figured out. He's going to have Jesus.

He's going to come to the wedding. He's going to have all this and Jesus. He's going to come to the wedding without the garment.

His name is Joe. He's this adulterer that comes to Times Square Church committing adultery. Here, singing, praising the Lord with all the saints, saying, Jesus is really doing a work in my heart.

Come up to me and say, Brother Wilkinson, I love this church. I love to be among the saints here. But he sneaks out.

He's committing adultery, or she's committing adultery. Living in sin. And then coming and covering the altar with her tears.

That's the person without the wedding garment. It's that fornicator. It's that one that's been delivered from crack and says, Well, just maybe once a month.

I'm just going to indulge. It's that liar. It's that cheat.

It's that one who thinks in business or in the office or in the job that you can do things that are just a little shady. And you're going to come to the house of God and say, Well, God understands that. It's the system.

It's a part of the system. I have to do what the system tells me. I have to do what others do or I can't make it.

They'll swallow me up. And then come to the house of God and raise clean hands and pure heart. No, there's no garment.

There's no garment. And this is the burden of my heart for this church. We don't expect everybody to reach a level of practical holiness overnight.

And God's giving us a patient heart. There's some of you I see that are still, I can tell by looking at you, when you shake hands with us. When you bow your head and you can't look us in the eye.

We know deep in our heart that as much as you want to go on with the Lord, there's something still clinging to you. You're still holding on to that. You won't let go.

And I'm telling you though, we'll be patient, but there's never going to be a time in this pulpit there's going to be a moment of compromise where we don't keep on the Holy Ghost pressure to let you know that you can't just come in to the presence of the Lord and sit at His table without a garment of righteousness. Because the king came in and saw it and he was angry and he said, Get him out. Bite him hand and foot and cast him out with his weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

And folks, if you think that the message that's preached here from this pulpit is hard, what do you think of what Jesus is saying here? That's Jesus talking. He said, if you're going to come to my table and raise your hands and say I belong to them, if you say I'm going to walk with Jesus at Times Square Church, you're going to walk in holiness and righteousness. And I want to tell you something.

Listen to me now. The revival that God wants to send is not going to come through radio and television and literature. Listen to me now.

I love Jimmy Swaggart with all my heart. He's one of my best friends, but it's not going to be done through television. The revival that's coming is not going to be done through any media at all.

Thank God for the media. It's not going to be done because we get on radio in New Jersey or here in New York and tell everybody about what God's doing at Times Square Church. It won't be taken out, full-page ads in the New York Times or any other newspaper.

The only way God can send a revival and change lives here, rich and poor alike, is to have people walking in practical holiness, walking with their wedding garments up and down the streets, and people see it. And that's the testimony. It's that personal witness of people walking in a practical holiness who are not walking in the sins of this city, who are sanctified by the Holy Ghost, who don't curse, who don't drink, who don't walk like the world walks.

And people say, What is it about you? Well, come and see. Come and hear the Word preached. Unadulterated.

Come and hear a Word that will set your heart on fire. Come and hear a Word that will convict you of your sins. But you'd better be walking in it.

The revival that's coming, folks, is not going to be prophets who give you the secrets of heaven. It will be prophets exposing the secrets of your heart. God's not interested in just revealing the secrets of the universe or the future.

God's been speaking very strongly to me now. He wants to expose the secrets of your heart. Those things that you're hiding.

Those weakened indulgences. Those things that you still slip into once in a while. You thought you had the victory over.

And you say, God overlooks it. Because God knows my heart. He knows I'm hungry.

He knows that I'll pray. And so you sin, confess, sin, confess, sin, confess. No.

Get off that merry-go-round. Say, God, I hate it. I want to be changed.

I want to be purified. And I want to tell you the time is coming in this church. It's been happening.

It's going to happen more and more. If you sit in this church and there's sin, the Holy Ghost isn't going to turn the light on. He's going to expose it.

And the only reason He's exposing it is not to hurt you, but to hear you. To get it all out. He's going to turn over the rocks and sow all the worms.

Do you believe that? We have a responsibility as pastors before this church. We're going to have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ and answer. And there are times I get on my face and I cry, Oh, Jesus, please give me a sweet sermon.

Give me a sweet message. Let me just encourage everybody and get them happy. Well, I tried it once, and I'll never do it again.

Because it wasn't what God wanted. And I could see people leaving the church that night. That was up in Toronto, Canada.

And everybody went home and said, What's wrong with Brother Dave? He's lost the anointing. Well, I hadn't lost the anointing. I just misdirected.

Doesn't mean that we come in thunder every night about sin. But we have to stand before God and answer to a people, for a people that sit under our ministry. And the heart cry, our heart cry, is that we would see a people who would not hide anything from God.

Who would say, Oh, Jesus, I'll come to the word. I'll come to the truth. And when I see it, I'll lay it down.

I won't live in phoniness. I won't live a double life. I won't live that way.

And I believe, listen, everything that can be tried has been tried. If God was going to send a revival because, if it were lack of money, now you stop and think about this. PTL was taking in \$175 million a year.

The other ministers are taking in \$150 million, \$130 million, \$100 million. Millions and millions, hundreds of millions of dollars. We have swept this nation on radio and television.

You can hardly turn, not here in New York, but you go across the river, you go to Texas, you've got stations playing religion all day long, 24 hours a day. You've got Christian television satellites blowing it everywhere across this nation. If that were going to do it, it would have been done a long time ago.

It's not money. This is the end of side one. Turn the tape over to side two to continue this message.

One at a time, walking in practical holiness, and people saying, You're different. I see something in you. There's a change in you.

And it's being drawn to that. You know, when I was preparing this message this week, the Holy Spirit revealed to me very clearly there would be two classes of people that He wanted me to talk to before I close. I'm not preaching long tonight, but I just want to share this with you with all my heart.

There were going to be people here tonight that had a cancer of sin. Your sin is like a cancer. It's eating you up.

You cut something off and it breaks out somewhere else in your body. It's there. You can't seem to get rid of it.

In fact, you're at the point where you think it's hopeless. You say, Brother Dave, I don't know if I'll ever get free. This thing just keeps coming back on me.

I can't shake it. It's eating me. It's in my blood.

It's almost like in my blood. But you've got to see this altar tonight as an operating room. You've got to see Jesus as the great physician.

And He's got x-ray eyes, and He knows where the root is. And if you really want Him with all of your heart, and you'll make Him King of kings and Lord of lords in your life. He is Lord now.

Listen. Brother Bob, this has been eating me up all day today. We have people talking about setting up the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God has already been established. It's in my heart. The king of kings rules and reigns right here in my life.

There came a day in my life I said, Jesus, I'm not walking sin. I'm not walking compromise. I'm tired of the ups and downs.

I'm tired of the depression caused by sin. I'm tired of not being able to look God in the eye. Lord Jesus, whatever it takes, I want it out.

I want to walk from this day on in purity and righteousness before You. And when I came to that place of honesty before God, and the fear of God came on me. I enthroned Him as King of kings and Lord of lords.

And I'm not waiting for Him to set up His kingdom. He set up His kingdom in my heart. Some people get the idea.

Some people get the idea if He comes down here, He can rule better than He can from up there. Or, you know, in the heavenlies. He can rule just as good where He's at.

He doesn't have to come down here on earth to rule anywhere. That doesn't, you know, changing His place doesn't make Him a better ruler. He rules right now.

Is He ruling in your life? The only reason you keep falling down, the only reason you go back. You've never let Him, you've never made Him King of your life. You've never come to Him and said, Jesus, You take full control of my life.

I give it all. You know, this boy that stood up here, I don't know if he's here. The young man who confessed he had AIDS Friday night in a prayer meeting.

I said, well, you don't look like a homosexual. And he said, well, I am. And you heard his testimony.

He said, I had accepted Jesus years ago, but I did it on my terms. I had promised that I would come to Jesus, but He'd have to accept my homosexuality. You see, that's no... That's nakedness.

That's nakedness. Now, in the Bible, nakedness is very clearly... Nakedness is sin. When somebody's walking in sin, he's naked before God.

Righteousness is the robe. And God told me very clearly, spoke so clearly to my heart, there would be people here tonight that had to be healed. I mean, you have to be healed of the cancer of sin.

Because it's got so deep in you, and God has to dig it out. And He will tonight if you'll say, I recognize it, I hate it, and I want it out. I'm coming up here, and I'm going to expose myself to the Holy Ghost, and I want Jesus' extra eyes to look right to the root out of it, and pluck it out.

And when I walk out of this place tonight, Jesus Christ is going to be the Lord and King of my life. Then there are others. This is the reason probably this man didn't have a garment on.

Perhaps his hands were dirty, and he looked at that white garment, and he said, if I even touch it, it'll be smudged. What's the sense of putting it on? It's going to be dirty before I even sit down. His hands are filthy.

His body's filthy. He's not been bathed. There are some of you sitting here now, you say, Brother Wilkinson, I don't think I'll ever be clean.

If you only knew what I've done. We've had people in our office in the past month. Gary was telling me, and Dawn and others.

We hear things. I thought I'd heard everything. I've been working with troubled people for years.

I thought I've heard everything. Folks, we have heard things that you just have to go home at night and pray, Jesus, cover it, get it out of my mind. And there are some sitting here right now that we've counseled, have been delivered from incest, spirits of incest, spirit of rape.

I could stand here and name horrible, ugly sins people have been delivered from and set free. And they can look us in the eye right now and say, God is in my life. Jesus is the Lord of my life.

But then there are others of you, and I say it lovingly, you're here tonight, and I'm just going to make it as plain as I can before I close. And listen to me up in the balcony here on the main floor. You say, Brother Wilkinson, I acknowledge that I want to be a part of God's kingdom.

I want to sit at this feast. I want to be a part of what God is doing. But I look at my hands.

I look at what I'm doing in secret when nobody sees me. Nobody's there. God sees my hands.

His eyes see me. He sees what I'm doing. He sees these wicked thoughts that race through my mind.

He sees the battle that I'm going through. I'm telling you now, you don't have to live like that. I'm telling you right now, there's total freedom.

There's absolute victory in Jesus Christ. Hallelujah. You can bring those dirty hands to Him tonight and say, Lord Jesus, bathe me, cleanse me, sanctify me.

And He'll do that at this altar tonight. And He'll put His robe of righteousness on you. Not your own, but His robe of righteousness.

Hallelujah. Every head bowed. Lord Jesus, there are people here tonight that have gone through great, great battles, struggling with sin, fighting.

Lord, they hate it, and yet this thing keeps coming back. Lord, we want you, Jesus, to come as a physician tonight. Come with your knife and cut as a surgeon.

Cut, Lord, and heal. Lord Jesus, be raised up as Lord and King of many hearts and lives tonight. Saints, I want you to pray.

Christians, pray. I want you to pray. There are people here tonight.

God's really spoken to my heart. There are people here tonight that really need to be changed. There has to be deliverance from sin tonight.

Because you're sitting here tonight and you don't have that robe of righteousness tonight. You're not clothed. He wants to put that beautiful white linen robe on your back.

He wants you to walk in white with Him. He wants you to walk in white tonight. If you feel that pull and say, Brother Dave, that's me.

That's me. I've been struggling, and I'm losing the battle. I hate sin, and yet it just keeps overwhelming me.

Up in the balcony, go down the stairs and come down. You hear the main floor. We're going to come to the surgeon tonight.

He's going to cut it out. He's going to cut it out. Just stand and come stand right here at the front.

We're going to lay hands on you. We're going to ask God tonight to set you free. We don't have to know what it is.

Jesus knows. Up in the balcony, that's it. Just go to the steps and come down, and then come down the main aisles.

Hear the main floor. Just come and stand here right now. We're going to believe God for a miracle tonight.

God's going to do something. God's going to give you freedom. God's going to set you free.

Yes, He is. This concludes this message by David Wilkerson. For a copy of this tape or any other from the Times Square Pulpit, write to World Challenge PO Box 260 Lindale, Texas 75771 or call Area Code 214-963-8626.

Thank you.

---

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/15/SID15874.mp3>  
Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/david-wilkerson/the-wedding-garment/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**