

Improperly Dressed

Matthew 22:1-14

Parables of Jesus

Talk about hosting a wedding. A king was planning a wedding for his son, so he sent out invitations.

Discuss:

Have you had a party?

How did you decide who to invite?

Did you have some people that couldn't come?

Did you have anyone that didn't want to come?

What would you do if none of your friends came?

This king is making a big feast; talk about a feast for a wedding party.

Discuss:

What would you need for a big feast?

You probably need food, somewhere for people to sit. Maybe some flowers, plates, and drinking glasses?

You would want to dress up and wear something special.

What would you wear?

If the king was planning this party, it would be very busy with many people getting ready for a huge party for the marriage of the king's son.

The king sent his servants to get the people who were invited to come. They told them, everything is ready! We made a huge feast, we've killed the animals and cooked all the meat. Come to the wedding! But the people made excuses of why they could not come. Some of the people were very mean to the servants, and some people killed those servants!

When the king heard this, he was very angry. He sent the armies to destroy the people who killed the servants, and he burned up their city.

Then the king told his servants that the wedding was ready, but people who were invited did not deserve to come.

So, the king told the servants to go out into the highways and invite everybody they could find to the wedding, both people who were good and bad. Finally they had the wedding full of guests.

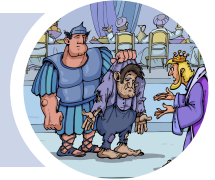
The king came in and saw a man who came to the wedding, but he was not wearing wedding clothes. He called the man, "Friend," and asked him why he came in without wearing the wedding clothes, but the man had no answer and did not respond.

The king was not upset that the man did not bring a gift. It wasn't about what he brought; it was about his wedding clothes.

The man was not allowed to stay at the wedding. They tied him up and took him out.

Everyone was invited; but it was up to the guests to make sure they had the wedding clothes.

Jesus in the Story



The king in the story is God, who is preparing for the marriage of Jesus. The Israelites were invited first, but they didn't value their invitations, so God invited everyone, both Jews and Gentiles.

Everyone is invited, but you cannot come into the wedding without the right clothes. The right clothes means you have to have Jesus.

No one can come in without Jesus. He gives us a "robe of righteousness".

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile (Romans 3:22).

Because they were ignorant of God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law, to bring righteousness to everyone who believes (Romans 10:3-4).

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30).

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The only way into the Kingdom of God is through Jesus. We can never be "good enough" to get into the kingdom. We can only get in by accepting what Jesus has done for us. His blood paid the price for our sin; his blood made us righteous, or right, with God. It is impossible to come to God on what we've done, without the saving grace and blood of what Jesus Christ did on the cross. If we try to come to God without Jesus, we are trying to "earn" our way into heaven. If we were able to earn our way, then we would be able to brag about what we have done. It has nothing to do with our actions, but is only about what Jesus did FOR us. Our own acts of "righteousness" are nothing to God. He sees our efforts as filthy, dirty rags.

We might look at this story and think the problem was that the man did not bring a gift to the wedding. This man's fault here was not that he did not bring something to God, or do something for God; this man was not missing a gift.

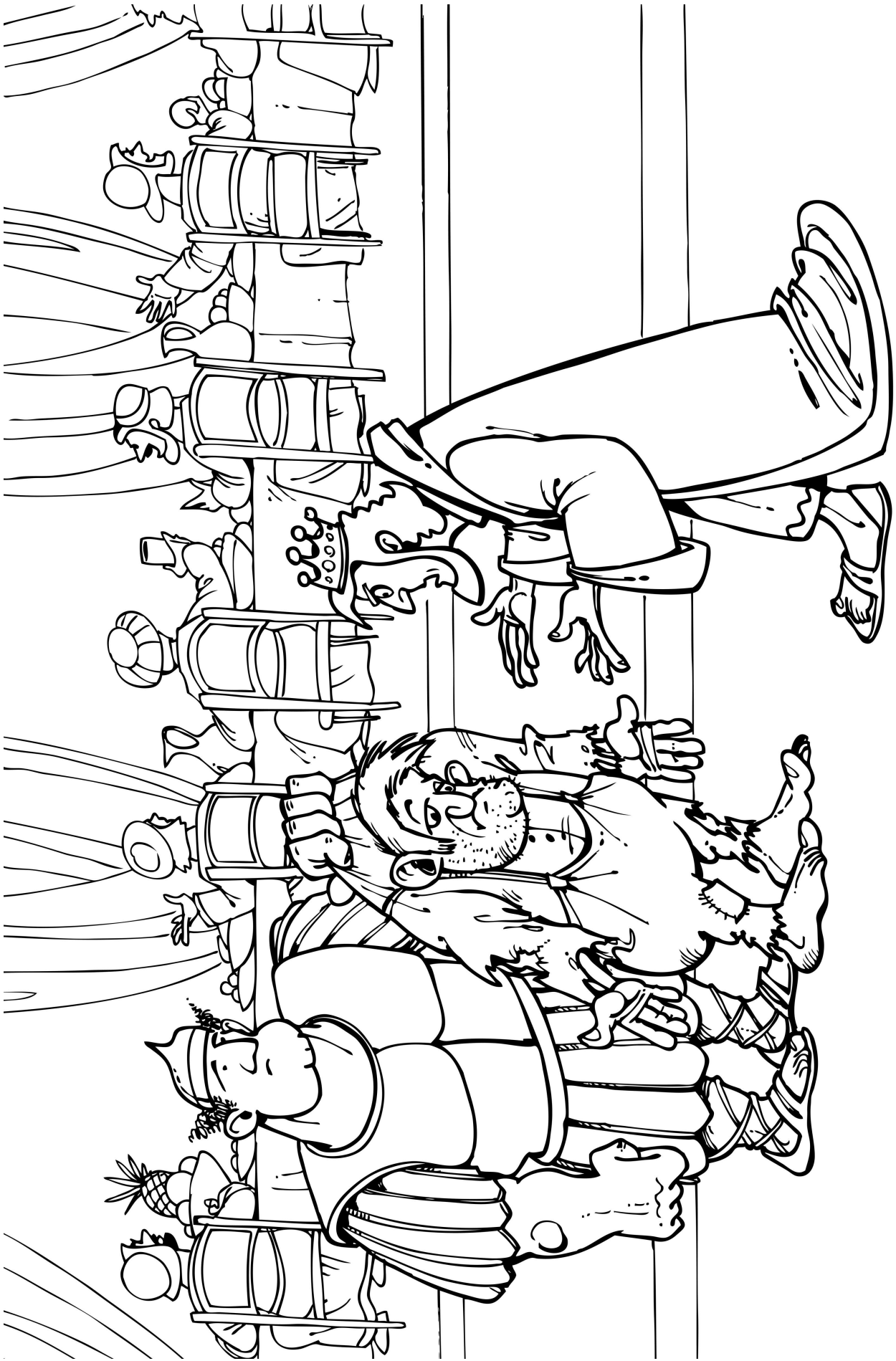
He was not properly dressed with the robe of righteousness that is Jesus' free gift to us. That was what was of utmost importance to the king.

It is not about what we can bring to God, but accepting His gift to us.

Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone (Romans 5:18).

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).

Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it (Ephesians 2:9).



Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

41. The Wicked Farmers

1. What did the farmers do to the first servant that the man sent?
2. What did they do to the other servants?
3. Who did the man finally decide to send?
4. Where did the servants take the son?
5. What did the servants do to the son?

Isaiah 28:16

...Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.

42. Kingdom Business

1. What did the first servant do with the money?
2. Where did the last servant put the money?
3. What did the king do with the last servant's money?

Luke 19:26

For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

43. Improperly Dressed

Read John 14:6

1. Jesus is always full of?
2. Jesus is not death, he is always?
3. What is the ONLY way to get to God the Father?

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

44. Arrested!

1. In Ezekiel 1:28, what happened when he saw the glory of the Lord?
2. In Psalm 41:9, who betrayed (lifted up his heel)?
3. In Matthew 26:50, what did Jesus call Judas?

Psalm 103:2-4

Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies...