

“Are You Dressed for Success?”

Based on Matthew 22:1-14 (NIV) Oct. 15, 2017

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Matthew 22:8-10

8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.

9 Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.'

10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

† **This parable shares with us God's open door policy.**

† **Anyone, good or bad, who wants to follow God, and follow God's son Jesus, is welcome to do so.**

Matthew 22:11-14

11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.

12 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.

13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

† **The custom during Jesus' time was for the host to provide the proper attire for all guests.**

† **The guest who is not wearing “wedding clothes” has no excuse because they were offered when he came and he refused to put them on.**

† **God accepts me as I am now but God also expects me to change to the “clothes” He offers me.**

† **This parable has to do with the spiritual clothes I wear in my life.**

† **Wearing God's “wedding clothes” means you do God's will for your situations of life.**

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† What event(s) have I attended or participated in that I needed to wear certain clothes (wedding, sports, hobby)?

† When did God first call me to His “banquet”?

† What was my initial response?

† When have I wanted forgiveness for my sins but was unwilling to stop sinning?

† What is the hardest part about leaving on God's “wedding clothes” for me?

† If someone were to follow me around this week, which “clothes” will I be wearing - the one's God offers or the one's I insist on wearing?