



Message Date: 04/10/2026 Lighthouse Meeting Date: 06/10/2026	Message Title: The Royal Banquet, all things are ready Minister: Pastor Tobi Adeola
Key Texts: Romans 5:8, Romans 5:5	Sub Text: Matthew 22:4, Matthew 22:9-10, Luke 18:13, Isaiah 61:10, Romans 3:23-24, John 1:12, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Luke 15:20, Matthew 22:14, Matthew 22:12, Revelation 19:7-9

INTRODUCTION

Imagine a king preparing a lavish wedding banquet, setting the table, killing the fattened calf, and sending his servants into the streets with one instruction – “Bring everyone! Both good and bad” (Matthew 22:9–10, AMPC). Not the deserving. Not the respectable. **EVERYONE.**

This is the scandal at the heart of the gospel, God’s love was not reserved only for those who earned it. Instead, *“while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8, AMPC). In Matthew 22, Jesus portrays a kingdom banquet where “all things are ready,” before the invitation goes out (Matthew 22:4, AMPC). Yet the story ends with a warning, one guest is removed for appearing without the proper wedding garment as *“many are called, but few are chosen”* (Matthew 22:14, AMPC).

Tonight, we will explore what it means to receive the King’s invitation, and what it truly means to be dressed for the feast. The invitation is already before us, but how are we responding to it? Have we merely accepted the invitation, or have we allowed the King to change what we are wearing?

KEY 1: A LOVE THAT NEEDS NO MERIT.

God did not wait for people to become desirable before loving them, He demonstrated His love precisely while humanity was in its most undeserving state, proving that the banquet invitation was never based on merit. This is the love that “has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit” (Romans 5:5, AMPC), a love so wide, so high, so deep that it defies human comprehension or classification.

Scripture Focus: “But God shows His own love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (AMPC)

Digging Deep/Life Application: **God's invitation is rooted in demonstrated love, not in human worthiness.** Have I been trying to make myself worthy of God's love through performance, when the invitation was already extended to me while I was still unworthy?

KEY 2: ALL THINGS HAVE BEEN MADE READY.

The king in the parable does not ask the guests to contribute to the feast, oxen are killed, the fatted calf prepared, and everything made ready before a single guest ever arrives, mirroring how God prepared salvation in full through Christ before any of us turned toward Him. Just as the king sent his servants with a message of completion, not request, the gospel invitation is not “come and help Me finish this,” but “come, for I have already finished it.

Scripture Focus: “Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have prepared my dinner... everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.” Matthew 22:4 (AMPC)

Digging Deep/Life Application: God completes every preparation for the banquet before He ever extends the invitation. Am I still trying to add something of my own effort to a salvation that God has already declared complete and ready?

KEY 3: COME AS YOU ARE, BOTH GOOD AND BAD.

The king's servants were not instructed to screen guests by their reputation but to gather "both good and bad" from the highways, proving that no man's past disqualifies him and no man's piety alone qualifies him for the table. Like the tax collector who could only pray, *"God, be merciful to me, the especially wicked sinner that I am."* It is humility, not religious performance that secures a seat at the banquet (Luke 18:13, AMPC).

Scripture Focus: *"Go therefore to the thorough fares... and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find... both good and bad."* Matthew 22:9-10 (AMPC)

Digging Deep/Life Application: The invitation excludes no one based on their past, status, or self-assessment. Is there a version of my past I believe makes me "too far gone," or a version of my goodness I believe makes me "good enough" and have I let either belief keep me from simply coming as I am?

KEY 4: THERE IS A ROBE YOU CANNOT BUY.

The guest that was cast out of the banquet was not removed for being "good" or "bad" by human standards, but because he attempted to stand before the king in his own clothing instead of the robe the king himself provided, a picture of self-righteousness being rejected in favour of imputed righteousness. True entry requires exchanging "our own robe," which could be our heritage, our record, and our credentials, for Christ's robe, *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God [and] are justified freely by His grace"* (Romans 3:23-24, AMPC).

Scripture Focus: *"He has covered me with the garments of salvation; He has dressed me with the robe of righteousness."* Isaiah 61:10 (AMPC)

Digging Deep/Life Application: Entry to the banquet requires a righteousness only God can provide. Am I standing before God today in the "designer suit" of my own goodness and effort, or have I fully exchanged it for the robe of Christ's righteousness?

KEY 5: WE HAVE RECEIVED, NOT EARNED.

The authority to become a child of God is given only to those who receive and welcome Christ, not to those who are born into the right family, keep the most rules, or perform the most religious acts, which is why *"if any person is in Christ, he is a new creation... old things have passed away... new things have come"* (2 Corinthians 5:17, AMPC). Like the prodigal son who returned expecting only servant's quarters, every believer discovers that the Father runs to meet those who simply turn back, *"while he was still a great way off, his father saw him... and ran"* (Luke 15:20, AMPC).

Scripture Focus: *"But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God."* John 1:12 (AMPC)

Digging Deep/Life Application: Becoming a child of God is a matter of reception, not achievement. Have I fully received what Christ is offering, or am I still standing at a distance, unsure whether the invitation was really meant for me?

CONCLUSION

The banquet has already been prepared. The invitation has already gone out to good and bad alike. The only question that remains is whether you will come in your own robe or in the one the King has already provided. Like the prodigal son on the road home, like the tax collector who could only cry for mercy, like the servants gathered in from the highways with nothing to commend them but the invitation itself, you are called to this table not because

of what you have done, but because of what Christ has already finished. Many are called, but it is those who receive the robe who are chosen to remain. Will you come as you are, and let the King dress you for His table?

PRAYER POINTS

- 1) **Father, root me deeply in the revelation of Your unconditional love.** Silence every voice of rejection, condemnation, and unworthiness, and help me live in the assurance that Christ died for me while I was still a sinner.
- 2) **Lord Jesus, teach me to rest in Your finished work.** Deliver me from fear, striving, and every attempt to earn what You have already made ready by grace; let my confidence be in Your sacrifice alone.
- 3) **Merciful God, search my heart and uproot both shame and self-righteousness.** Give me the humility to come before You honestly, confess my need, receive Your mercy, and depend completely upon Your grace.
- 4) **Father, clothe me afresh with the righteousness of Christ.** Help me lay down confidence in my goodness, achievements, background, and religious works, and let my life reveal the new identity You have given me in Christ.
- 5) **Lord, grant me grace to respond fully to Your invitation.** Let me not merely hear the gospel or remain near the banquet; help me receive, welcome, trust, and follow Christ wholeheartedly as Lord and Saviour.
- 6) **Father, restore every prodigal and draw every seeking heart back to You.** Break the power of guilt, fear, and spiritual distance, and let many encounter Your open arms, saving mercy, and transforming love.
- 7) **Holy Spirit, make me a faithful servant of the King's invitation.** Give me compassion and courage to reach beyond my familiar circles, welcome those whom others overlook, and invite people from every background to come and see what Christ has prepared.
- 8) **Lord, keep me watchful, faithful, and ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb.** Establish me in Christ, preserve me from presumption, and let my life continually honour the One who called me to His table.

"But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority to become the children of God." — John 1:12 (AMPC)

SEVEN PROMISES OF GOD FROM THIS MESSAGE

- 1) **God demonstrated His love for us while we were still undeserving of it.** *"But God shows His own love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8 (AMPC)
- 2) **Everything needed for your place at God's table has already been prepared.** *"Behold, I have prepared my dinner... everything is ready; come to the marriage feast."* Matthew 22:4 (AMPC)
- 3) **No one who comes in humility will be turned away from God's mercy.** *"God, be merciful (be propitious, by the bloodshed of the atoning sacrifice) to me, the especially wicked sinner that I am!"* Luke 18:13 (AMPC)
- 4) **God Himself clothes those who come to Him in a righteousness they could never produce.** *"He has covered me with the garments of salvation; He has dressed me with the robe of righteousness."* Isaiah 61:10 (AMPC)
- 5) **Justification is freely given by God's grace, not earned by human effort.** *"[All] are justified and made upright... freely by His grace (His unmerited favour)."* Romans 3:23-24 (AMPC)
- 6) **Receiving Christ grants the right to become a child of the living God.** *"But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God."* John 1:12 (AMPC)
- 7) **The Father runs to meet anyone who turns back toward Him, no matter how far they've gone.** *"While he was still a great way off, his father saw him... and ran."* Luke 15:20 (AMPC)

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