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| Come one, come all | Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23Philippians 4:1-9 **Matthew 22:1-14** |

2020 10 11 Come one, Come all.

Matthew 22:1-14.

Coming to God, coming into Gods presence is not a dry and dreary thing.

It is coming to a wedding party, a place of happiness and life and future – and all are invited.

Yet, despite the power and authority of God who is inviting us, many are unwilling.

There can be in us humans a holding back, which neither the certain reality of death nor the reality of seeing changes in others who have come to the party can change.

Some are caught up in their day to day lives: work, owning things, doing their own thing and others, become intensely anti the king even to the place of actively working against God and Gods invitation to come to the Sons’ wedding.

 Our Lord Jesus introduces this story by saying that it is story, a story is designed to teach us – conventional wisdom of commentators is that such stories are to teach us one main truth and not to expand it beyond that or to develop a theology, a system of beliefs from the one parable. This story could be extended to develop a belief in hell in the after-death life – I see the story as teaching as coming out of the belief that the Jewish people have been especially set aside and trained to be – to be first invited into Gods presence – and although some came, the majority did not.

God then opened the way for all peoples to come into His presence and supplied us with clothes to wear – nothing was required of us but to come. We see this as coming – as we are and put on the new creation that we have been given. We cannot ‘get ourselves right’ and them come – this is self work.

The strange and seemingly, somewhat unfair thing is the case of the man who came with the others but had the attitude of “ ok I will come but I am coming in my own clothes – ‘I am ok as I am’. And certainly, in societies standards he may have been. Yet NOT compared to Gods standards – no matter what, we are all falling short of Gods rightness.

He was rejected from the party – a gate crasher. Are we trying to be gate crashers – or are we coming in Jesus rightness and cleansed and washed in His death and resurrection. “Jesus became sin for us so that we might become the rightness of God by being in Jesus”,

“God so loved His creation that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.”[[1]](#footnote-1) The way is clear and will be revealed to anyone who seeks it with a mind and emotions and conscience that is open and honest. This is the turn side of those written about in Romans “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes … because in it the righteousness of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, *because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.* Since the foundation of the world Gods invisible attributes, HIS ETERNAL POWER AND DIVINE NATURE, HAVE BEEN CLEARLY SEEN, BEING UNDERSTOOD THROUGH WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, *so they are without excuse.* Because even though they knew God, they did not honour/glorify Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing themselves to be wise they became fools.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

This is the man who came to the wedding feast in his own cloths, his own rightness and conceit. He did not succeed.

If a person isolated in the deepest jungle or raised in another religion is open to God, God will reveal Himself to them.

**Come one, come all.**

Come to the living Jesus.

Come, now!

1. John 3:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Romans 1:16-22. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)