

How strikingly was the truth shown by the king's dealing with the Christ-despising intruder! "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment." At once this was the ground of action. No question was started of what the man had been or done. The servants were warranted to bring in bad as well as good. "Such were some of you," says the apostle. Indeed, this man may have been the most correct, moral, and religious of the company, like the young ruler who left the Lord in sorrow. But whether he were a hardened sinner, or a self-righteous soul, one thing we know for certain, he had not on a wedding garment. This at once arrested the king's eye. He looked at the simple fact, had the guest on a wedding garment? This man had not. What was its meaning? It told a tale the most damning possible; it was setting at nought the king's grace, it was openly dishonoring his son.

The wedding garment is Christ. This guest, therefore, came before the king without Christ. He did not put on Christ. There might be ever so sincere efforts to be holy and righteous, but it was all and only himself, not Christ, and that is everlasting ruin and condemnation to a sinner. Whereas, if we suppose the very chief of sinners justifying God by accepting Christ as the sole means for a lost soul to stand before Him, this is what exalts God and His grace. It is as if a man were broken down enough in his thoughts of himself by God's revelation of what He is in Christ, to look up and say, I cannot trust