

give. Come who might, there was enough and to spare, "all things were ready."

This is the great essential truth of the gospel. So far from looking for anything in man agreeable to God, the glad tidings come on His part on the express ground that all is ruined, wretched, guilty on the sinner's part. "Let him that is athirst come; yea, whosoever will."

But where the heart is not right with God, it never submits to His righteousness; man, in this case prefers to stand on his own foundation. Either he thinks he can raise a claim on God by being or doing something, or he ventures within, careless both of himself and God. Such was the man who was found by the king without the wedding garment. It was to despise the holiness as well as the grace of God, and proved that he was an utter stranger to the feast. What did he think of, or care for, the feelings of the king bent upon the glorifying of his son? For this is the true and real secret: God lavishes mercy on sinners for the sake of His Son. Opportunity is thus given to put honour on His name. Does my soul bow to it and Him? It is salvation. The heart may go through much exercise, but the only key to His astonishing goodness to us is God's feeling towards His Son. Because of the infinite value of the cross, God loves to put honour on Christ, and if a soul do but plead His name, it becomes a question of God's righteousness justifying him freely of His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.