

(continued from sermon 11)

God judged the man for not wearing the proper clothing. God called another group of His servants.¹ They were not the disciples (Matthew 22:3, 4) and preachers (Matthew 22:8, 10). They were the angels who were in charge of security at the gates of Heaven.

The man was bound hand and foot. The hands are bound so there is no resistance. The feet are bound so there is no escape. Whatever the King says is done in the Great Day of the Feast. No man can resist or flee. The man was taken out of the banquet hall and cast into **outer darkness**. So we see that God first called the Jews and only a few responded. Then He called the Gentiles, and again few responded. God is now offering salvation and eternal life to everyone but few wear the required wedding clothes. They are simply phony Christians. They think they're saved because they are good people but they simply don't satisfy the one and only requirement for true salvation, and that is through faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ for their sins.

There are those in the church who care more for the things of this world than they do for Christ.

1 Timothy 6:7-10 (NLT):

⁷ *After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it.*

⁸ *So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.*

⁹ *But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.*

¹⁰ *For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.*

¹⁷ *Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.*

¹⁸ *Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.*

¹⁹ *By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

²⁰ *Timothy, guard what God has entrusted to you. Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge.*

²¹ *Some people have wandered from the faith by following such foolishness. May God's grace be with you all.*

Unfortunately there are many people within the Church who refuse to deny self or sacrifice all they are in the name of Christ.

Luke 9:23 (NASB):

²³ *And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

¹ The servants (*diakonois* ^{PWS: 3462}) were not the same servants who delivered the invitations. Ibid.

There are also folks within the church who still will choose what the world has to offer over Christ.

Romans 12:2 (NASB):

² *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

There are also those in the Church that suffer from *Loose Tongue Personality Disorder*.

Ephesians 5:3-4 (NLT):

³ *Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people.*

⁴ *Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.*

James 3:1-12 (NLT):

¹ *Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.*

² *Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For **if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect** and could also control ourselves in every other way.*

³ *We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth.*

⁴ *And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong.*

⁵ *In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But **a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.***

⁶ *And the tongue is a flame of fire. **It is a whole world of wickedness**, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.*

⁷ *People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish,*

⁸ *but **no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.***

⁹ *Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God.*

¹⁰ *And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!*

¹¹ *Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water?*

¹² *Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and **you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.***

In spite of what Jesus taught about love, there are those in the church that do not love the way Jesus told them they should love.

John 13:33-35 (MSG):

³³ *"Children, I am with you for only a short time longer. You are going to look high and low for me. But just as I told the Jews, I'm telling you: 'Where I go, you are not able to come.'*

³⁴ “Let me give you a new command: **Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another.**

³⁵ *This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.”*

Then there are also those in the church who prefer the things the world offers over those things that God promises.

1 John 2:15-16 (MSG):

¹⁵ *Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father.*

¹⁶ *Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him.*

There are members of the church that don't come to worship on a regular basis.

Hebrews 10:23-27 (NLT):

²³ *Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.*

²⁴ *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.*

²⁵ *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

²⁶ *Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins.*

²⁷ *There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies.*

A number of people (hypocrites) in the church claim to know Christ as Savior but live in a manner that in no way reflects the righteousness of Jesus. They live more for their own glory.

Matthew 6:1-4 (NLT):

¹ *“Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for **you will lose the reward** from your Father in heaven.*

² *When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get.*

³ *But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.*

⁴ *Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, **will reward you.***

Jesus made His warning quite clear so that people would know beyond a shadow of a doubt that refusal to accept Christ until their death meant Hell forever, and that meant no second chances, no do-overs.

"For many are called, but few are chosen." [Matthew 22:14 (NASB)]

"So the last shall be first, and the first last." [Matthew 20:16 (NASB)]

“On May 3, 1987, the story of Gary Hart's fling with blond model and actress Donna Rice finally erupted into a national scandal.

As it unraveled, the tale included accounts of her visit to his townhouse in Washington, a boat trip to Bimini, off the coast of Florida, as well as assorted reports about the promises he had allegedly made to her about their future together.

Gary Hart showed no remorse.

On May 5, he admitted he'd made a "big mistake" but insisted he had done "nothing immoral."

On May 8, Hart announced he was withdrawing from the Presidential race.

On May 25, Hart's picture with Donna Rice sitting on his lap appeared on the front page of a national weekly—along with an account of their overnight trip to Bimini.

On Sept. 22, Hart told Ted Koppel on ABC-TV's *Nightline* that he had not been "absolutely faithful" throughout his marriage.

On Dec. 15, Gary Hart announced he had decided to re-enter the Presidential race.

On Jan. 9, he told a newspaper in Des Moines, Iowa, that, if elected, he "wouldn't be the first adulterer in the White House."

By Jan. 13, he had received almost \$1 million of taxpayers' money for his campaign.

On Jan. 15, at the Democratic Presidential candidates debate in Iowa, he maintained that "there is a difference between public morality and private morality."²

God knows exactly what is in our hearts and minds. God can spot the hypocrites a mile away, and they will not be allowed into the banquet hall.

Luke 13:24-28 (HCSB):

²⁴ *"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because I tell you, **many will try to enter and won't be able***

²⁵ *once the homeowner gets up and shuts the door. Then you will stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up for us!' He will answer you, 'I don't know you or where you're from.'*

² Op Cit., *6,000 Plus Illustrations for Communicating Biblical Truths*, "Hypocrisy. See: Romans 16:18; Galatians 6:7.

26 Then you will say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets!'

27 But He will say, 'I tell you, I don't know you or where you're from. Get away from Me, all you workers of unrighteousness!'

*28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth in that place, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but **yourselves thrown out.***

Before the Great Supper God is going to inspect the guests and any found wearing anything but a robe of righteousness will be cast out.

1 Corinthians 3:10-20 (NASB):

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

*13 **each man's work will become evident;** for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.*

14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

*19 For **the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God.** For it is written, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS";*

20 and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS."

The wedding garment which the man needed to have was **righteousness**. Because he did not have the required righteousness of Christ he was forbidden entrance and was cast out.

Romans 5:1 (NASB):

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 10:3-4 (NLT):

3 For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law.

⁴ For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT):

²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Lastly, there are those in the church who choose not to live a moral life and find pleasure in doing the exact opposite by living an immoral life.

Luke 9:23 (NASB):

*²³ And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **he must deny himself**, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

So now we come back to Paul's words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:10 about being willing to **suffer hardship** and to "*endure all things*" if it will help others come to Jesus praying for salvation. Do these words apply only to Paul? or are they for Timothy too? As a matter of fact these words apply to all believers as well.

Are you aware that **100 million** Christians in various parts of the world are this day suffering persecution for their faith? They are being abused and imprisoned, yes, and even executed (murdered).³

You may remember a news story a few years ago about a Pakistani cabinet member who was assassinated in March, 2011.

"Shahbaz Bhatti was the Minister of Minorities in Pakistan. As such he served on the Pakistani Cabinet and he was the only Christian to do so. Bhatti founded the Christian Liberation Front in 1985 and worked hard for over twenty years opposing the blasphemy laws so that Pakistanis could have freedom of worship or at least for the government to be tolerant of Christians and their right to worship.⁴ At one point Shahbaz Bhatti said 'I am living for my community and suffering people, and I will die to defend their rights.' And that is just what he did."⁵

"His death was the ultimate demonstration of Christian love... loving those who persecuted him. This is a fundamental challenge we face in our work – loving those who hate and want to destroy us, just like Jesus loved those who abused and killed him."⁶

"Or consider this pastor in India. He is a farmer who became a Christian twelve years ago. He now leads a house church of about 40 people. Here are some excerpts from a newspaper article in Compass about what happened to him.

³ Source: *Open Doors USA*. <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/persecuted-christians/>.

⁴ Source: Annabelle Bentham, "*Shahbaz Bhatti obituary*" at guardian.co.

⁵ Op. Cit., *Open Doors USA*.

⁶ Source: *Open Doors USA*.

“Pastor Hari Shankar Ninama, 65, was praying in a home in Ambarunda, Peepal Khoont, Pratapgarh district for an 8-year-old boy’s recovery from illness on Feb. 1 when at least 10 Hindu extremists arrived on motorbikes and stormed in, he said. The assailants beat him and, putting him on one of their motorbikes, took him outside the village, where they stripped off his clothes and struck him.

“They fled after stealing his watch, cell phone and a small amount of money.

“Pastor Ninama told Compass that he was visiting his daughter Galadh Mangiya Bujh in Ambarunda village when her neighbor, Lasiya Bujh, requested he pray for his sick child. Ambarunda is ... nearly 11 miles from Pastor Ninama’s home village of Aamliya.

“As I sat praying, a group of at least 10 men interrupted the prayer and started to beat me,” Pastor Ninama said.

“Others were awaiting prayer at the home of the pastor’s daughter and witnessed the attack, including Paasu Dindore.

“They slapped Pastor Ninama’s daughter Galadh and beat the sick boy’s father too,” Dindore said. “I was there to request Pastor Ninama to pray for me, and as soon as the attack took place I fled from the spot and witnessed the event from a distance, hiding.” . . .

“Ninama’s daughter and son-in-law came to the police station requesting the police not to pursue the case,” he said, adding that police had not investigated. . . . the extremists have threatened to burn down the home of Pastor Ninama’s daughter if police prosecute. . . .

“Though feeble, however, Pastor Ninama told Compass that he will continue to evangelize in area villages and pray for people wherever and whenever called. . . .”⁷

⁷Source: *Compass*, February 17, 1011. Reported in Open Doors USA <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/persecuted-christians/persecuted-christians-news/2011/February/Pastor-in-India-Traumatized-after-Attack>.