

Audio file

Gospel Service. Terrible Tailors and Sorry Seamstresses. Mark 2. v1 Mr Robert Aboagye
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Transcript

00:00:00

Please turn with me to the Gospel of Mark, the Gospel of Mark chapter 2.

00:00:08

Mark chapter 2 and reading from verse 13.

00:00:15

Mark 2 and verse 13.

00:00:20

And he went forth again by the seaside, and all the multitude resorted unto him

00:00:28

and he taught them.

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And as he passed by, he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me.

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And he arose and followed him.

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And it came to pass, that as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples for there were many,

00:00:58

and they followed him.

00:01:00

And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?

00:01:14

When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick.

00:01:25

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

00:01:31

And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?

00:01:46

And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

00:01:54

As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast but the days will come when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then they shall fast in those days.

00:02:09

No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.

00:02:23

And no man putteth new wine into old bottles else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.

00:02:39

And it came to pass, that he went through the cornfields on the sabbath day and his disciples began as they went to pluck the ears of corn.

00:02:50

And the Pharisee said unto him,

00:02:52

Behold, why do they do on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?

00:02:58

And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungered, he and they that were with him?

00:03:08

How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat, but for the priests

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and gave also to them which were with Him.

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And He said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

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Therefore, the Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath.

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May the Lord bless to us that reading from His Holy Word.

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Our sermon for this evening shall come from verse 21.

00:03:50

which and the title for our message this evening is Terrible Tailors and Sorry Seamstresses.

00:03:59

I read our text verse 21, No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old and the rent is made worse.

00:04:16

And the first heading for our consideration this evening is that everybody is a tailor or a seamstress.

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And as I was preparing this message, thinking about this cloth which the Lord Jesus Christ is speaking of, it reminded me of a village in Ghana where I am originally from and it is famous for the kente cloth

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This is a woven cloth and it is woven together using traditional looms, wooden looms, and they weave this cloth together.

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It's a heavy gauge cloth and they actually weave it in strips of about four inches, 100 millimeters, and they weave these long strips together and then they sew the strips together.

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It's very colorful.

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very similar in some ways to our Scottish tartan.

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Every cloth, every pattern actually has a specific name, a specific cultural reference.

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Some of them are royal cloths and royal patterns ascribed to various chieftains and so on.

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And I was just thinking how

00:05:36

And this, there's a famous village.

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It has a very challenging name.

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It's Bornwere.

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It's quite a challenging name even for me to pronounce.

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But you have these whole families, these guilds, which produce this famed cloth.

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And it is passed down, the tradition for making this cloth is passed down across the generations.

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And you could imagine

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You could just speculate, you could imagine if there was a new village, a new family which wanted to produce this famous cloth and they had to produce it in the right way.

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There's a set system, they have all the equipment, the traditional equipment to produce this cloth.

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And then the guild inspector goes round to make sure are they producing the cloth in the right way, are they producing it

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with the right technique.

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And the guild inspector, he gets a bit of a shock because they were all, the whole family, the whole village say, they were all using the wrong technique.

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And they weren't producing the cloth in the right way, the traditional way, which has been passed down for generations.

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This is how we make it.

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This is how we do the patterns.

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This is how they are subscribed to various symbols and meanings.

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And he goes around and has a look.

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And the cloth, it doesn't look that bad, but it just doesn't hold together.

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It doesn't hold together.

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It falls apart.

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It was a big disaster.

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This is just an illustration, but this is the sort of illustration which is behind this parable which the Lord Jesus uses.

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And he wants to highlight a very important message to his hearers and to all of us today.

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When we stand in front of Almighty God,

00:07:47

We will all stand before Him on Judgment Day at the end of time, but we also stand before Him every day.

00:08:02

When we stand in front of Almighty God, how do we appear?

00:08:09

What do we look like?

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What is our presentation?

00:08:14

And this is not the presentation of our face or our body.

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What is the presentation of our soul?

00:08:23

What is the presentation of our heart?

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What do they look like in front of Almighty God?

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Are they covered, are they clothed with righteousness and goodness or not?

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And all of us, all of us, if we are honest with ourselves, we must see and we must say that our souls have sin on them.

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They have sin in them.

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And we have all, all of us, we have told lies, we have been mean, we have been proud.

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Some of us have even stolen things.

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We have disobeyed, we have lusted.

00:09:15

So all of us, our souls, our hearts, when we stand in front of Almighty God, they need a cover.

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They need to be clothed because He is a holy God.

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He is perfectly pure.

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He cannot look at sin and just ignore it because He is holy, because He is just, He has to punish it.

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He has to deal with it.

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He is the perfect king, a king looking out over his creation.

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He will not just leave the sin there.

00:09:49

Oh, there's some...

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He has to deal with it.

00:09:52

That's what a good God does.

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A holy God certainly does this.

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So if we can cover our sins somehow, if we have some righteousness to cover over our souls, we will be fine.

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We will be okay.

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So again, every person in this world is a tailor or a seamstress.

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A tailor for the men, seamstress for the ladies.

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We are sewing coverings.

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Each person has a covering which they're sewing for their souls in order to appear before Almighty God.

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Again, this happens at the end of time.

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It also happens

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every day.

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What sewing technique are you using?

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What method, what style of sewing and stitching and weaving are you using for this covering for your soul?

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Will your covering, will this cloth, will it be accepted, will it be acceptable

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when you appear before him?

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Or sadly, will it not?

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And will you have to go into judgment?

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So this is just a very short parable, just one verse really, but it is so important for us to study and for us to consider who would want to fall under the judgment

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of the Almighty God.

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He is holy, as I've said.

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His standards are very high, very pure.

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He is totally perfect, and he has perfect justice.

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As a parent, I often have to check myself.

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I'm dealing with my children, and my justice is not perfect.

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But the Lord God's, his justice is perfect.

00:11:56

And imagine, imagine,

00:11:59

Imagine if we get punished for every single wrong thing which we have ever done.

00:12:06

Everyone brings some sort of punishment.

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Imagine all the lies, all the being mean, all the sneakiness, the anger, the hate, the uncleanness, the drunkenness, all these things, it will be a great punishment.

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It will be a terrible punishment and we will deserve it.

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We will deserve it because this God we deal with is holy and righteous and good.

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So again, this parable is so important.

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How are we going to cover our souls when we appear before the holy God?

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So a next heading for us is what was the technique

00:12:57

which the religious leaders were using.

00:12:59

What was their technique so that we can learn not to do the same?

00:13:04

The Lord Jesus says, the parable shows that there was something wrong, something seriously wrong.

00:13:13

with the technique and the method which the religious leaders were using to cover their souls the Lord Jesus says I read our verse again he says no man also sew with a piece of cloth on an old garment else the new piece that filled it up that filled up the whole taketh away it teareth away from the old and the rent is made worse so

00:13:43

What they were doing was that they had some old cloth, an old garment, an old dress, an old suit, some fabric which they had.

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And there was a hole in it.

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There was some hole there.

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And they got a new garment and they cut out a patch

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And I'm sure they would have chosen the right type of patch.

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They weren't that bad.

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They would have chosen the right pattern, the right color, and they would have taken the patch from the new garment and they'd have sewn it over the hole on the old garment.

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And they noticed the hole, and they didn't just walk around with a big hole on their garment.

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They didn't want to be exposed as they walked around in the community.

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So they found this patch, the right color, and they sewed it over the hole.

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I'm sure they would have done it carefully, they would have done it well, and initially, everything looks fine.

00:14:43

everything looks okay.

00:14:45

It doesn't, they'd have done it so, it wasn't obviously a patch, it was well done.

00:14:51

It seemed to be acceptable.

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And they say to themselves, ah, look, I've covered it up and everything is fine.

00:14:59

It's going to be, I'm going to be okay.

00:15:04

But the Lord Jesus says, the word he uses in the Greek is for this new cloth, this new cloth

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It was cloth which hadn't been washed, it hadn't been sort of processed properly in the textile tradition, so it was going to behave very differently to the old cloth.

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when you have garments which have been through the laundry dozens of times and you get something brand new, the two cloths behave differently.

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They don't behave the same.

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They stretch and they shrink differently.

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And perhaps when washed, obviously, they will react and behave differently.

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Or if you stretch them, the old cloth is a bit more sturdy, but the new cloth stretches a bit more.

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The 2 cloths behave differently.

00:15:59

But they sewed on the new cloth onto the old garment, the old fabric.

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And when a situation arose, perhaps it was out in the sun, long in the sun, or perhaps it rained and it got very wet,

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some sort of pressure was applied to the area, they behaved differently.

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And the new cloth, it says it taketh away from the old, it pulled away, it pulled away all the stitches, all the stitches which they had so carefully done, they'd carefully cut out, they'd placed it properly, it pulled away, it tore away, and the patch fell out, and the hole was worse, and this is what

00:16:42

They did.

00:16:42

This is what the Lord Jesus is saying they are doing.

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What does this mean?

00:16:49

What does this mean?

00:16:50

This is a parable.

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A parable is an earthly story with a spiritual meaning.

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What does this mean?

00:17:00

And looking at the context, the religious leaders, the Pharisees, they considered themselves

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to be righteous.

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They were very law-abiding.

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They followed the law of Moses.

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They were very exacting, and they did everything which Moses had said and also all the other laws which had been added and invented by the Pharisees across the years.

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All the various expert rabbis had said, when Moses said this, there's actually about seven other laws you have to add onto what Moses said.

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And when Moses said that, there's actually 10 other laws you have to add in order to fulfill what Moses had said.

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So the Pharisees, these religious leaders, they worked very hard for their righteousness.

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And the Lord Jesus, just as we read, he was with, he had encountered Levi, Matthew the tax collector, and he was speaking to Levi's friends.

00:18:03

He was ministering to them.

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And the Pharisees couldn't believe it.

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They were like, how is it?

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that he sitteth and eateth with publicans and they wouldn't do that.

00:18:14

That breaks the rabbinical law.

00:18:16

You can't do that.

00:18:17

They were very exacting with their righteousness.

00:18:22

And this is what the Pharisees were doing.

00:18:25

But what does the Lord Jesus think?

00:18:27

This is what they thought.

00:18:28

What does the Lord Jesus think about them and their conduct?

00:18:33

And he was shocked.

00:18:36

He was shocked.

00:18:39

Look how he starts the parable.

00:18:43

He says, No man, no man seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment.

00:18:52

He could have said, Who would do this?

00:18:57

Who would do this?

00:18:59

Who would sew a new cloth on an old garment?

00:19:05

Why would you do it?

00:19:07

Or you could imagine him saying, could anyone ever do this?

00:19:11

Why would you sew new cloth on an old garment?

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And remember, we are speaking really, what we're really speaking about is this covering which our souls need, this great inspection

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We've spoken about the guild inspector coming down to visit the various tailors and seamstresses of this special cloth which they are producing.

00:19:42

And this is what we're really speaking about, this garment for our souls and how to avoid the judgment from Almighty God and what the religious leaders were doing.

00:19:55

this righteousness which they thought they had, the Lord Jesus says, No man should be doing this.

00:20:02

No man should be trying to do this.

00:20:06

The old garment, what is the old garment?

00:20:11

And the old garment is how people are before Almighty God.

00:20:17

How are we?

00:20:18

What does He see when He looks at us?

00:20:21

And I've got my old suit.

00:20:24

And I think, oh, it's just got a small hole.

00:20:26

I just patch it up and it looks fine.

00:20:29

I'll be okay.

00:20:31

What does God see?

00:20:32

What is the actual state of my garment?

00:20:36

And really, it is very old.

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It's not just old, it's very old.

00:20:42

And it's threadbare.

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And it's even soiled and smelly.

00:20:48

and it's damaged.

00:20:50

And I think I've got one hole, but there's holes all over the place.

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That's how I appear before Almighty God.

00:21:01

And then I just try to, I see one hole here and I try to patch it up.

00:21:07

I'm just going to fix this one hole.

00:21:09

I'm going to do some works of righteousness, I'm going to do one good deed a day, I'm going to follow the law of Moses

00:21:18

And others, maybe people in the community, my friends, they can't see the difference.

00:21:22

I'm doing works of righteousness.

00:21:25

People can't see the difference.

00:21:27

I look upright.

00:21:28

I look as if I'm okay.

00:21:32

But the Lord Jesus can.

00:21:34

And when there comes this testing time, this testing moment, the two fabrics, they don't hold together.

00:21:41

They rip apart.

00:21:43

and the rent is made worse than before.

00:21:48

The works of righteousness, this self-confidence, which the religious leaders, we don't go to publicans and sinners, but we do, we fulfill all these rabbinical laws.

00:21:58

Works of righteousness, the Lord Jesus says, no man ought to try and do that.

00:22:05

What are you doing?

00:22:07

What is the Lord Jesus saying?

00:22:09

Is He saying that we don't need to bother

00:22:13

to do works of righteousness in order to please God?

00:22:17

Is he saying don't bother doing good deeds in order to try and please God?

00:22:22

Is that what he is saying?

00:22:23

No, of course not.

00:22:26

But what he is saying is that you need a new garment entirely.

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You need a totally new garment.

00:22:36

You can't patch it up.

00:22:39

You can't patch it up.

00:22:42

You need what we Christians call is full conversion.

00:22:48

You need the new birth.

00:22:50

You need to be born again.

00:22:53

You need to be spiritually made alive.

00:22:56

That's what you need.

00:22:58

in order to be acceptable before the Almighty God.

00:23:03

This conversion, this born again experience, this new birth, it's not just I change my mind about Christianity.

00:23:10

I think differently.

00:23:12

I'm not sure I'm going to become, I choose to become.

00:23:15

No, it's not that.

00:23:17

It's not that.

00:23:17

This is a work from heaven.

00:23:20

Almighty God decrees.

00:23:22

He forgives you.

00:23:24

He sends the Spirit to bring new life into your soul.

00:23:26

He regenerates you.

00:23:28

He calls you to Himself.

00:23:30

This is a mighty work effected from heaven.

00:23:33

Your soul is changed.

00:23:35

You are born again.

00:23:36

You are given spiritual life.

00:23:38

I'm not just fixing a patch.

00:23:41

I need a whole new garment which God Almighty gives to me from heaven.

00:23:49

Let's consider this new garment

00:23:53

some more.

00:23:54

Our next heading for us is that, I wasn't sure what to call it, let's call it a new garment.

00:24:02

An entirely new garment is needed.

00:24:08

I come back to this method of patching up an old garment with good cloth.

00:24:13

This patching up of the old garment.

00:24:16

It is followed by so many philosophies,

00:24:21

and world religions.

00:24:24

Even those who claim not to believe in God, I don't believe in God.

00:24:29

What do you believe in?

00:24:30

Oh, I believe in the law of the universe.

00:24:33

I believe in karma.

00:24:35

Even those people, they follow this method.

00:24:40

Because if you ask them, how are you going to progress in your life?

00:24:43

How are you going to get good things

00:24:45

in your life.

00:24:46

Oh, I need to do good works.

00:24:47

I need to be kind.

00:24:48

I need to be good.

00:24:49

I need to have a good covering over my soul.

00:24:53

That's the same thing which the Pharisees were doing.

00:24:59

But we all, we follow this way of the Pharisees.

00:25:05

Our state before God, our presentation before God is threadbare, full of holes, soiled and smelly, unclean.

00:25:14

It's a worthless garment.

00:25:16

But we just try to patch it up.

00:25:18

I'll just do a few good deeds there.

00:25:20

I'll do a few good deeds here.

00:25:23

Maybe God will accept me.

00:25:24

I'll come to church.

00:25:25

I'll do this.

00:25:26

I'll do that.

00:25:29

We are terrible tailors, all of us, and sorry seamstresses.

00:25:35

We are sewing the cloth.

00:25:37

We are fixing our garment in the wrong way.

00:25:41

The Lord Jesus Christ says, this will not do.

00:25:45

this will not work at all.

00:25:48

And something else you see in this parable, why were the Pharisees behaving in this way?

00:26:01

And again, these first few words, the Lord Jesus saying, no man, no man does this, no man should do this, no man ought to do this.

00:26:15

But the Pharisees say, I can do it.

00:26:19

I can do it.

00:26:22

I'm okay.

00:26:22

I'm fine.

00:26:24

I can use the patch.

00:26:26

I can just fix my garment with one patch.

00:26:29

The Lord Jesus says, no man should do this.

00:26:31

The Pharisees say, I can do this.

00:26:34

They're so confident.

00:26:36

They're so presumptuous.

00:26:38

They are so careless.

00:26:41

They don't have a lack of time.

00:26:45

They don't have a lack of resources.

00:26:49

They have so much self-belief.

00:26:52

I can make myself good enough for heaven.

00:26:57

I can do it by myself.

00:26:58

I just need to do a few little things here and there, and I'll be fine.

00:27:03

We say, watch out.

00:27:05

He is a holy God.

00:27:07

He regards our thoughts, our words, our deeds every moment.

00:27:13

I think I'll be fine.

00:27:14

I think I'll be okay.

00:27:15

I don't think it's that serious.

00:27:18

What are you worried about?

00:27:19

What are you talking about?

00:27:21

I don't worry.

00:27:22

I'm actually quite a good person.

00:27:24

Most of my friends think I'm okay.

00:27:27

I'm decent.

00:27:30

I'm not that bad overall.

00:27:32

The Lord Jesus Christ says no man does this.

00:27:36

We say I can do it.

00:27:38

I think I'm okay.

00:27:39

I'm not that bad.

00:27:42

The Lord Jesus Christ says an entirely new garment, an entirely new garment, a total soul covering is needed.

00:27:56

A new garment, an entirely new garment.

00:28:01

How is this obtained?

00:28:04

How much does this cost?

00:28:07

What is the price for these things?

00:28:13

amazingly, the Lord Jesus Christ says that He will give this garment.

00:28:20

When He was speaking to Matthew and his friends, He spoke of them being sick.

00:28:26

And He said He would give this new garment to the sick freely.

00:28:33

He will give it to them freely.

00:28:37

He said, I am the physician of souls.

00:28:41

I have come down from heaven for the sick.

00:28:45

The Pharisee said, what are you doing there?

00:28:47

He says, I have come for these people.

00:28:50

I have come to restore their souls to God.

00:28:54

They need a new garment.

00:28:57

I will provide it freely.

00:29:02

This garment, it is provided freely by grace.

00:29:06

We do not deserve it, we can never deserve it, but it costs

00:29:10

the Lord Jesus so much.

00:29:14

First of all, He had to come down from heaven.

00:29:18

He is the second person of the triune God.

00:29:21

He had to come down from heaven in the first place.

00:29:26

And just think about the worst place you would like to live.

00:29:31

You would have to live by work or some constraint.

00:29:34

The worst place you would have to go.

00:29:40

It was that multiplied by a thousand.

00:29:43

He came down from the glories of heaven to live in this world and then he had to live a perfect, this is what it cost him.

00:29:51

He had to live a perfect life, spotlessly perfect, all the time getting insulted, all the time getting provoked by all those who were around him.

00:30:04

They treated him disgracefully, attempting to kill him,

00:30:09

And he had to walk and live perfectly.

00:30:12

Then he had to go to the cross and pay for the sins of his people.

00:30:17

And the physical pains were the smallest part, the smallest part.

00:30:25

The punishment for lost souls is to go into hell for all eternity.

00:30:30

And he had to take the hell for his people.

00:30:33

That was poured out in his soul.

00:30:38

that was poured out in his holy soul.

00:30:41

That's what he had to atone for.

00:30:43

That's what he had to pay.

00:30:45

That's what it cost him.

00:30:47

And then he rose from the dead to prove that his mission was successful.

00:30:54

This garment, this free garment, which the Lord Jesus Christ will give to you, really it's the most costly garment.

00:31:06

It's the most costly covering.

00:31:08

in the whole universe.

00:31:11

Christians, we like to speak about the robe of righteousness.

00:31:16

What a wonderful thing.

00:31:17

The robe of righteousness, which I wear, which is granted to me by my Saviour freely.

00:31:26

But will you, will you receive it?

00:31:32

Will you receive it?

00:31:35

Will you pray to God

00:31:37

Will you repent?

00:31:39

Will you yield your life to Him?

00:31:44

We are all, all of us, terrible tailors, sorry seamstresses without Christ, the covering for our soul.

00:31:53

It will not do.

00:31:56

It will not be adequate.

00:32:01

At the great inspection, either at the end of time and even daily,

00:32:05

It will not do for us.

00:32:08

There is urgency in Christ's voice.

00:32:12

He says, No man, no man does this.

00:32:17

No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment.

00:32:23

Don't do it.

00:32:25

Why do you do it?

00:32:28

Get the new garment.

00:32:31

He will give it to you freely.

00:32:34

All you need to do is ask.

00:32:37

All you need to do is pray.

00:32:40

He is a merciful God.

00:32:41

He is a loving Savior.

00:32:44

The Pharisees, what is he doing sitting there and eating and drinking with them?

00:32:49

He's like, I came for them.

00:32:52

I came for them.

00:32:54

Did he come for you?

00:32:57

Did he come for you?

00:32:59

Cry out to the merciful Savior.

00:33:03

Let's have a brief word of prayer.

00:33:09

Gracious Lord and loving Heavenly Father, we do praise and worship Thee for Thy word.

00:33:15

We praise and worship Thee for the illustrations, the pictures which are there for us to take into our souls.

00:33:22

We do pray, dear and gracious Lord, that the illustration, the picture in this parable might be a little more clear to us, help us to see how we stand before Thee with a

00:33:33

Inadequate covering, O Lord, we cannot stand before Thee neither now nor on that great day when the Lord returns.

00:33:42

But Lord, help each one here to know that the Lord Jesus Christ is ready to provide an entirely new garment, a whole garment, a perfect garment, a covering for every soul that will simply turn unto Him with prayer, repentance and faith.

00:34:01

O Lord be very merciful and gracious to each one.

00:34:06

We cry it unto thee for their souls.

00:34:09

We pray all of this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

00:34:13

Amen.