

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG238 – Appropriate All His Provisions

Hello, and welcome to the podcast this morning. I was so driven with this word in my heart. Actually, I had finished my time of prayer, waiting upon the Lord, meditation, and I was out walking the dog; and I just felt overwhelmed with this sense that we are in a time of appropriation. It is a time for us to appropriate all that the Lord has made in provision for us, and all that He has spoken to us by His Word. It just overwhelmed me how much we, in this timeframe, must reach in and take all of what the Lord has. When He broke the bread and blessed the wine, He said, “Eat all of it.” There is this sense that we must partake of everything God has; and I just felt like there is a passivity in our hearts to really sense, number one, what He has done and what He has provided, and to allow that understanding to really create in us a drive to go into the realm of spirit, into the world of the Kingdom, and to drain dry everything God has made available to us.

It is almost like we are so used to what is available, and what we have, and how we are walking with Him, that there is not the drive there needs to be to press in with all of our hearts to what the Lord has. So, I want to read many verses today, two stories, two parables, about this idea of what the Lord has given to us by provision, what He has made available to us. Parables are something that Yeshua used in His teaching. The purpose is to allow us, on a human level and from a human level, to gain an understanding of something that really is so deep in its spiritual truth and reality that it is difficult for us on a natural level to grasp what it is that God has done. I believe that this parable about the wedding feast is a part of that. We can understand very well this story, but as you are hearing this story, I want for you to reach in through the concept of the parable to see how much God is speaking to us about what He has done; about who He is, how He feels, and what we really have to come to grips with in this idea of His Kingdom and salvation, of His provision and what it is that He has given us. He has given us all things pertaining to life and to godliness – all things. He has made the world of the Spirit and salvation available to us at a great price to Himself, and at a great price to Yeshua, His Son. So, as I am saying, we need to reach through the parable, the story, and really get the heart; feel God’s heart, feel His drive, His love, His anger if we fail to do this and if we hold these things lightly.

I am going to start in Matthew the twenty-second chapter with verses 1-7. “Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come.’” Now this idea of being unwilling to come really has to challenge us to say, “What energy are we putting into what God has laid out before us?” These were refusing to come at all; but even on a daily basis, are we really putting in the energy to come before God, to come to Him and to appropriate from Him all of the provision He has made? I think that is where it begins.

I believe that our relationship with Him, our prayer, our meditation, our waiting upon the Lord, is something that must be a daily exercise. I have talked before about the fact that you should really pray about tithing your time; and tithing your time not just in helping others, but in being in His Presence, bringing yourself into His Presence, sitting before Him, standing before Him, crying out

to Him face-to-face, one-on-one, to receive all that He has given, and to express back the gratitude, the thankfulness, the love, for all that He has made provision for.

He called those who had been invited to the wedding feast. You have been invited – are you willing to come? “These,” it says, “were unwilling to come. Again he sent out other slaves saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited, ‘Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.’” God has put so much into the creation of our salvation. There is so much that is required by Him for us to have a great salvation that works. It is a very spiritual reality that has to follow the laws of the Spirit, and God has gone to great lengths over millennia to make our salvation available to us. That is what this king is expressing: “Listen, I have fattened my livestock. That takes time. I have butchered them. I have prepared everything for this wedding feast.” “But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business.” And I think that is the problem we face. Are we just going about our own business? Are we just paying attention to whatever concerns that we have in our life? realizing that, yes, the provision may be there, and He may have made all this available to us, but it is not getting the notice from us and driving us into the appropriation of all that He has made. We just simply go about our day.

“And the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them.” We see that, even; we see those who have the message of this salvation and of what God has done, and what Yeshua has suffered in order to gain our salvation, and yet they mistreat those that bring the message. We see great persecution even unto this day; and we see much persecution unto death, people being killed that are bringing the message of God, His grace, and His salvation. “But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire.” Now, this may seem out of character for God; but if it seems out of character to you, it is only because there is a failure to grasp really what God has put into this and what it means to Him. We are not feeling His heart. We are not seeing His sorrow. We are not feeling His pain at the death of Yeshua and the suffering of Yeshua that He was willing to put Him through.

Verses 8-14,

“Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?’ And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

We can see that even those who were poor and just brought in from the streets, they still made preparation for going in before the Presence of the Lord. There was this one as an example who did not prepare, and it was very offensive to God; because, again, it is the free gift of grace that you spit in the face of, that you reject out of hand and refuse to see what God Himself has put into it. Therefore, we should meet His effort with effort of our own, to be found able to go into the great feast, even if we were not ones who seemed to be originally invited, and are those who are terribly unworthy to come before His Presence.

We see this parable is something that is really trying to get across to us the price that God paid to institute our salvation – to bring about the blessings, the gifts, the goodness, the kindness, the forgiveness, the healing, all that is provided in the salvation that He has made to manifest in this creation. And I just want us to wake up today and say, “I need to really come before Him in repentance and say, ‘Father, forgive me for my lack of appreciation, of taking seriously, of really evaluating what You have done, and for not recognizing the cost that it was for You to provide Your grace and Your forgiveness, to provide Your salvation, to provide Your healing and Your deliverance to me. I have not counted it as something that is of the value that I should. I should ask You to open my eyes until I can see and behold the gifts that You have given, that You have made available. Therefore, I should respond, and I want to respond. So God, forgive me for my lack of thankfulness, my lack of appreciation, my lack of real response, that You have put in Your time, that You have given Your Son, and yet, I seem to just get up every day and go about my day, putting value on other things that truly, when we look back from eternity in the Kingdom, they are worthless things. They are certainly of no value compared to the suffering of the cross, and the goodness and the kindness of God to bring salvation and to see mankind restored to Himself in a relationship with Him.’”

This parable is repeated in Luke the fourteenth chapter, starting in verse 16. I am not going to read all of it, but it is of the same story that is trying to get across to us the same idea. It says, “‘A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’” But they all alike began to make excuses.” It is time for us to get rid of our excuses. We need to evaluate in repentance and in humility the excuses that we make before God on a daily basis of why we cannot seem to show up for what He has made available. Why we cannot seem to show up and appropriate His grace, appropriate the salvation, appropriate the gifts of the Holy Spirit, appropriate the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Why is it that we do not show up? It is something that each heart has to look at individually, because as it was in this parable, everyone’s excuses are different.

One said, “Well, I just bought a piece of property, I have to go check it out.” Another one said, “I just married a wife.” Another one had a different excuse. And everybody has their excuses; we all have our excuses of why we cannot show up to graciously appropriate what God has given to us.

I want to go to Isaiah 53 and start reading at verses 2-5. This is all speaking of Yeshua, and the Father providing Him as the sacrifice for us in the preparation, really, of this wedding celebration that is behind the parable we read in Matthew. It says, “For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.” What is he saying here? He is saying that, especially in this day and age that we live in today, He never would have made it on social media. He did not have the appearance. He did not have what is required out there to be worshiped and to be followed, and to be given accolades and the focus of our time and our energy. There was nothing in Christ that would draw us today in following His social media appearance.

“He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” All that He suffered, all that He gave. He was despised, despised by us. He was looked down upon. Men hid their faces from Him, did not want to be aligned to Him when He was arrested. Even the

disciples hid from Him, denied Him. How much more do we find ourselves today doing that in the day that we are living?

And yet it says, "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried." He carried our problems. We are trying to solve our problems today. We are trying to deal with our sorrows. We are trying to deal with our griefs and our problems in this age in which we live; and all we have to do is come to Him, because He already bore those griefs, and our sorrows He has already carried for us. And He is just waiting at the supper. He is waiting at this wedding supper for us to come and freely receive and partake of what He has already made available for us.

"Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed."

Think about it – every day, all we have to do is come and stand before the Father, washed in the blood of Christ, and realize that we are healed of every issue, of every need, of every problem, of everything that we face in life. "By His scourging we are healed"; we just have to believe it and appropriate every day. We do not need to get up every day and go fight our own battles, and go out against the world and deal with all the problems; the first thing we should do is spend the time with Him. Come before that cross. That cross is available every minute of every day; every second of now that cross stands, and we can touch it, we can embrace it. We can receive all that it holds within its power to heal us, to restore us to the Father, to restore us to Yeshua in a relationship, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is all there by His scourging, and it is all by grace, a free gift. But we have to receive it. We have to come before Him and appropriate all that has been made available.

"All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way." Each of us has turned to his own way. We are all doing our own thing, and He is standing there before this wedding supper that He has prepared. He is standing there in the room with everything ready, waiting, waiting for you. Waiting for you to come and receive it, and partake of it. All we need to do is dress appropriately and come before Him with gratitude, with thanksgiving. Come with joy, and the humility that can receive by grace all that He has made.

Verses 6-8,

All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way [doing our own thing]; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that was led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?

It was all due to us. It was all because of us. He suffered because of me, because of my sin; and I do not want to continue in that sin by ignoring the provision. If there is one takeaway from this, it would be that idea: The stroke was due for us, and He took the punishment. He took the judgment. He took the oppression that should have been mine. And because of me, He hung on that cross; and He did it as a sacrifice of love to the Father that we might be restored to the Father.

Let's not continue in sin by now ignoring what He has bought for us through His own suffering and oppression to bring about grace and salvation that is beyond words, beyond understanding. Some day in the Kingdom, we may grasp the totality of it; but all we need to know now is that it is there and available

for us by grace, because of His great love – the great love of God for His creation, the great love of Christ for His Father and for the creation, the great love of the Spirit. And we should give ourselves now to appropriate all that He has made available.

Let's show up to the wedding feast, amen?