

“Clothed from Above” (4-7-24)

Introduction: Followup to Easter - Jesus' clothing gave us a glimpse of His Character & Purpose. Because of Him, we are now clothed from Above!

Easter Review:

He was clothed in frailty - naked and wrapped in swaddling clothes mirroring his human vulnerability and a prelude to his death where his clothes would be removed and he would take on our shame and guilt.

He was clothed in power - He used this not to serve himself, but to serve and heal others

He was clothed in humble attire - and laid even that aside to wash his disciples' feet. Because he came in humility and sacrifice.

At His Death - they bartered over his clothing & tunic in front of him as he died on the cross. His tunic was seamless from top to bottom (a hidden garment, with unexpected value) and while the guards gambled for it, he dealt with another garment woven from top to bottom - the veil that separated us from God. Remember: Genesis - naked and ashamed (we used to be naked and unashamed).

Key Note: The reconciliation at the cross is about God being “our” God once again. Surrendering our lives into his care - trusting him for salvation and now living a yielded life to Jesus as our King.

At His Resurrection - He left his grave clothes, and because he is Risen we are now clothed in Salvation!

Today: Clothed from Above

1) From Above

Jesus' Seamless Tunic from Top to Bottom - (For Reference - John 19:23-24)

(23) When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, (24) so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things

Note: They are fighting over his clothes - dividing up his garments, and gambling for his “seamless” tunic

Veil Torn from Top to Bottom (For Reference - Mark 15:37-39)

(37) And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. (38) And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. (39) And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

“Top” meaning: translated in English as Top / Above / Again - (G509 - Anothen): from above, from a higher place; of time, from the first or beginning; from the source; again, anew; the top or upper part

From Above: Born Again (or Born from Above) . . . **(New Life)**

John 3:3-7 (ESV)

(3) Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (4) Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” (5) Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be **born again**.’”

Authority comes from **Above . . . (New Power)**

John the Baptist speaking about Jesus . . .

John 3:31 (ESV)

He who comes from **above** is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all

Jesus before Pilate . . .

***For Reference - John 19:10-12 (ESV)**

(10) So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" (11) Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from **above**. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." (12) From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

Wisdom from **Above . . . (New Wisdom)**

James 3:17-18 (ESV)

(17) But the **wisdom from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. (18) And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Every good gift is from **Above . . .**

James 1:17 (ESV)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from **above**, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Note: The ultimate good gift from the father . . . His Spirit!

***For Reference - Luke 11:13 (ESV)**

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

2) Clothed

- **New Life** - Because Christ put on our frailty and weakness, we can be clothed in new life!

Isaiah 61:10 (ESV)

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the **garments of salvation**; he has covered me with the **robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Matthew Henry: The shame they put upon our Lord Jesus, in stripping him of his garments before they crucified him. The shame of nakedness came in with sin. He therefore who was made sin for us bore that shame, to roll away our reproach. He was stripped, that we might be clothed with *white raiment* (Rev 3:18), and that when we are unclothed *we may not be found naked*.

Revelation 3:5, 18 (ESV)

(5) The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. . . (18) I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian church to encourage them about the importance of Resurrection Life . . .

1 Corinthians 15:50-55 (ESV)

(50) I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (51) Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. (54) When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (55) "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 (ESV)

(1) For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, (3) if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. (4) For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. (5) He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Application: We are clothed in Salvation & Righteousness - it is an eternal promise that we will be further clothed in everlasting life!

- **New Power** - Because Christ laid aside his Power, we can receive the Power of the Holy Spirit!

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Note: Remember the woman healed by touching his Garment? (Luke 8:43-48)

***Peter's Shadow** - (For reference - Acts 5:15-16)

(15) so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. (16) The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

***Paul's clothing** - (For reference - Acts 19:11-12)

(11) And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, (12) so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

Note: Jesus walked in power, so did the apostles - how ought we to walk in this same power?

*Let's take a moment and do what Jesus did and contrast Earthly authority with His authority . . .

- **Herod** - Always looking for his own power & glory!

Acts 12 - Killed James, and imprisoned Peter (then the Lord sends an angel to help Peter escape)

Acts 12:20-23 (ESV)

(20) Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. (21) On an appointed day Herod **put on his royal robes**, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. (22) And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" (23) Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

Note: This is the same Herod who arrayed Jesus in a royal robe to mock Him! (Luke 23:6-12)

- **Jesus** (in contrast) - Laid aside his Power to serve & wash the disciples' feet . . .

John 13:12-16 (ESV)

(12) When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? (13) You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. (14) If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (15) For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. (16) Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

Note: Jesus uses His power in Humility to Serve

*I believe we see so little power because we cannot be trusted with it! We build our brand and establish our authority rather than building His Kingdom and promoting His Glory. Consider how often Jesus just blended back into the crowd or told people not to talk about the miracle.

Application: By putting on the humility of Christ we can walk in real power (Receiving the Holy Spirit is about receiving a new master!)

- **New Wisdom** - By His Power, we can walk in the wisdom of this new life

Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV)

(1) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are **above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Note: Paul then goes on to describe how we are to aggressively deal with the things that are in opposition to the life of Christ - Putting them away, and even putting them to death! (Colossians 3:5-11)

Colossians 3:12-15 (ESV)

(12) **Put on then**, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, **humility**, meekness, and patience, (13) bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (14) And above all these **put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (15) And let the peace of Christ **rule** in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Note: Let Christ Rule - and we can put on Love, and all the other wisdom of this new life in Him!

Robert Hawker

But they desire but a part in Christ, and therefore rend the scriptures to this purpose. Truth, however, like the seamless coat of Jesus, is a complete whole. It admits nothing to be taken from it, neither admits anything to be added to it. A whole sinner needs a whole Savior. Christ must be all, or nothing.

Conclusion: Christ took on frailty, walked in humility, and used his power to serve, so that we might be clothed from Above - eternally "clothed" in life, and walking now in His power & wisdom, as we serve Him as our King!