**The Jesus Life Session 4**

**“Buy from me…white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness” (v. 18).**

**1) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE NAKED?**

1a) Being naked means much more than not wearing clothes. It means that who you really are is completely exposed are for others to see.

**2) It’s not what you believe that shows who you really are, but what you do**

2a) You might believe that you’re a really caring person but if you never actually care for anyone, you’re not. You might think you’re really living for Jesus, but if you never open your mouth and talk about him, are you really?

2b) Jesus says; “You shall know a tree by its fruit” (Matt. 12, 33).

2c) We aren’t saved by our works. We are saved by faith alone. But our works prove that our faith is real. “Faith without deeds is dead ….. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?” (James 2, 10-14).

2d) On Judgment day we will be judged according to what we have done

2e) “For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.” (Matt. 16, 27)

2f) “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.” (Rev. 22, 12)

2g) “‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.... “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” (Matt. 25, 31-46) See also Romans 2, 6-8; John 5, 28-29; etc

**3) WHITE CLOTHES SIGNIFY FORGIVENESS**

3a) White clothes are a wonderful picture of the cleansing work of the blood of Jesus. We come to Jesus in our dirty clothing, stained by sin and he washes us whiter than snow.

3b) “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him …Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.” Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by (Zech. 3, 1-5).

3c) If you feel ashamed or guilty for things that you’ve done in the past, come to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you and He will wash you clean in his blood.

**4) WHITE CLOTHES TALK ABOUT OUR HOLY LIVING**

4a) Jesus gives us white robes, but he expects us to keep them clean. Our life as a Christian should be different from the old, selfish and sinful life. It should be characterised by clean and holy living.

4b) Every day we have a choice of which clothes we put on – our new clean holy clothes that God is wanting to give us – or our old dirty ones. “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Col 3, 12-14).

**5) WHITE CLOTHES TALK ABOUT OUR IDENTITY**

5a) In the ancient world, your clothes would tell people much more about who you were than today, when quality clothes are easily affordable for all. Your clothing would often identify your status, your nationality and your profession. The poor would wear simple, rugged clothes that were made out of readily available local material, such as wool, flax, linen or animal skins. Many clothes were not even dyed because dyes were expensive. The rich’s clothes were made from much finer material, beautifully fashioned, with intricate patterns, jewels or embroidery on them.

5b) God wants to give you HIS CLOTHES. When the prophets saw God or Jesus, they were usually wearing white, shining robes (ie. Matt. 17, 2). We are called to “become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky” (Phil. 2, 15-16).

5c) White robes doesn’t just mean seeking to live a holy life. It also means living like Jesus lived in this world. “As He is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4, 17)

5d) Jesus is “The Light of the world” (John 8, 12). We are called to be the light of the world (Matt. 5, 14). Jesus said “I am the good shepherd” (John 10, 11). We are called to be shepherds (Acts 20, 28; 1 Pet. 5, 2; Gal. 6, 2). Jesus preached the gospel and made disciples. We are called to preach the gospel and make disciples (Matt. 28, 19, 2 Tim. 4, 2). Jesus performed miracles. We are called to perform miracles (John 14, 12). Jesus cared for the poor, the outcasts and the needy (Luke 4, 18). We are called to care for the poor, the outcasts and the needy. (Luke 14, 12-13) etc.

5e) We’re growing into our new clothes! Like children sometimes wear clothes that they will “grow into”, God asks us to put on clothes that don’t really fit who we are as yet. We wear them whilst waiting for heart, faith and attitudes to grow.

**6) WHITE CLOTHES TALK ABOUT A WEDDING**

6a) “The wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)”(Rev. 19, 7.See also Eph. 5, 25-27).

6b) Both men and women are called to be the Bride of Christ - His lover, His partner, His friend, the one who will bear him children, and so much more than we can now understand.

6c) Who sorts out the wedding dress? It’s not the husband. It’s the bride. “The Bride has made herself ready” (Rev. 19, 7).

6d) The bride invests A great deal of time and money into her dress in order look

is the things that we do for Jesus here and now. “Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people” (Rev. 19, 7).

6e) Imagine you get to the wedding dressing room and to your horror you discover you don’t have any nice wedding dress. You thought Jesus was sorting out your dress and they thought you were sorting it out. Jesus said that there will be some who thought they would be at the wedding but who won’t be allowed in because they hadn’t prepared themselves correctly. (Matt.25, 1-9; Matt. 22, 11-13).

**7) HOW DOES JESUS WANT HIS BRIDE TO BE?**

7a) 2 Corinthians 6, 14-18 – “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers”. Do we believe what God says in scripture and seek to ? Do we seek to obey it?

7b) Song of Songs. This book describes the passionate love affair between the King (Jesus) and his bride. Jesus desires intimacy and passion from his bride.

7c) Prov 31, 10-31 describes in detail “A wife of noble character”. i)She cares diligently for her family; ii) She works hard. Gets up while it is still night (v. 15) “Her lamp does not go out at night” (v. 18 “Sets about her work vigorously” (v. 17). Does not eat the bread of idleness” (v. 27). iii) She cares for the poor (v. 18).

7d) Eph. 5, 22-24; “wives should submit to their husbands in everything”. Jesus is looking to a wife who will submit to Him in everything (Eph. 5, 24;

7e) 1 Pet 3, 1-7; Jesus desires a wife with the inner beauty of “a gentle and quiet spirit”

**8) WHITE CLOTHES SIGNIFIES MINISTRY**

8a) When we come to Christ, God offers us the white robes of ministry. “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Eph. 2, 10).

8b) God called Aaron and his 4 sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar from among the people to be His priests. (Exod 28-39 & Lev. 8-10). In order to fulfil the ministry, they had to wear ornate clothes that had been specially made and then go through a 7 day ceremony of consecration.

8c) Not all those who were called will make it. 2 of Aaron’s sons acted presumptuously and so died (Lev. 10).