

God's Clothes

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He Wears His Good Clothes

- All have diff types clothing we wear. Think what's in closet/drawers – diff clothes for diff occasions. Casual: for loafing house (cold Sat am). Work: for when in garden, shop, yard (warm weather – raking, yard work); ok if get dirty; work clothes. Good: special occasions – evening gown, formal dress, best suit, tuxedo. Fancy, very nice. Don't wear often (maybe wedding, black tie event); when do, turns heads: “She looks great; he cleans up.” Good clothes.
- Today, talk God's clothes, because transfig – almost as if Jesus changes clothes. Hiking up mnt with closest discs, prob wearing casual clothes, like any day. Gospel: **“There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as the light” (Mt 17:2)**. Mark adds this detail: **“His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them” (9:3)**. Changed clothes, so to speak; put on good clothes. Turned heads, literally; discs turned heads, so bright. At transfig, Jesus gives glimpse of heavenly glory, what look like in heaven. But transfig only lasted few moments. After bright cloud dissipated, voice from heaven done speaking, Jesus back in casual clothes again.
- For that brief moment on mnt, why put on his good clothes? Why transfigured? To encourage discs (us!) for time when wear work clothes. Jesus also has work clothes to wear. Right before transfigured (chapter before): **“Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life” (Mt 16:21)**. Work to do; dirty – suffer, die, pay for sins. Painful for him, and for discs to watch. This Wed, AW, Lent; special way we watch Jesus go to work: So at transfig, Jesus puts on good clothes to encourage us, give us strength for when he wears work clothes.

He Wears His Work Clothes

- Today in Is, see him put on those work clothes: **vs. 17**. Work clothes: armor, helmet; righteousness, vengeance. Military outfittings of warrior, soldier in battle. Jesus puts these work clothes on because going to war. Has war to fight, win against sin, Satan. His enemies, because our enemies; already defeated us. When look this chapter, Is 59 – one of most vivid, poetic descriptions of power of sin in Bible. Listen to colorful vocab Is uses to describe power of sin. **Vs. 12-15a**. Earlier in chapter, more: **“Your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt” (Is 59:2-3)**. What a vibrantly dreadful portrait of sin Is paints in this chapter! Read words, come away with three inescapable conclusions: God hates sin; we guilty sin; we need Savior from sin.
- That's why Jesus puts on work clothes. That's why **vs. 17**. Going to battle, against Satan, for us, because knows we can't win this battle. **Vs. 16a**. No one can fight, win battle against sin on their own. So, **vs. 16b**. God knows old adage true: want something done right, do it yourself. Wanted our salvation done right; did it himself. Put on work clothes, armor. Even though here Jesus' work clothes sound like impressive gear soldier wears in battle, when see Jesus wearing this armor, doesn't look so impressive. Doesn't look like much of warrior with crown thorns crushed into scalp; Roman whips tearing back apart; with spit, blood dripping from face; arms stretched out on cross. But remember: **vs. 16b (arm)**. By stretching out his arms, giving his life, our mighty warrior, JC, not only fought battle against Satan; won war. Resurrection proves that! When rose, was still wearing work clothes? No! Changed back into good clothes: glorified resurrection body, marks of victory; same body that ascended; that he gives us in Lord's Supper to remember his victory, strengthen faith. Jesus defeated our colossal problem of sin by putting on work clothes, dying on cross, getting job done.

We Wear His Work Clothes

- Now that job's done, Jesus gives us his work clothes for us to wear. Need these work clothes because, even though war over, still skirmishes, temptations that we have to fight. Since we're ones have fight them, Jesus gives us same work clothes, same armor, he used against Satan for us to use, too. This verse (vs. 17a) has NT counterpart in Eph 6. Here God wears; in Eph 6 we. "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes... Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph 6:11-17). This isn't our armor; this is armor of God; loans it to us to use to fight temptation. One of my fav passages of Bible; strong military language to describe our Spirit-powered fight against a defeated Satan here on earth, wearing God's work clothes, until get to heaven, when we'll wear God's good clothes.

We Wear His Good Clothes

- Today's transfig; see Jesus wearing good clothes, shining in heavenly brightness. Well, he's got set good clothes for us to wear, too. Keeping them perfectly clean, safe, so when get to heaven, waiting for us. Rev: "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count... They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands... [Then the elder said,] 'These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb'" (Rev 7:9, 14). Jesus' blood makes us clean, and in heaven, we'll wear these shining white clothes, just as Jesus did on mnt transfig.
- But know what? We're actually wearing God's good clothes right now. When baptized, God put his good clothes on us. Threw dirty clothes in laundry, gave us new outfit. Why at baptism sometimes parents dress baby in beautiful white gown; symbolizes how in baptism sins washed away, we get to wear God's good clothes. "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Gal 3:27). So as Christians we get to wear God's good clothes right now.

Conclusion

- I don't know your wardrobe; but if anything like mine: casual, work, good clothes, because need diff clothes for diff occasions. Today's transfig, special occ; Jesus wearing good clothes. But throughout Lent (this Wed) we'll see Jesus suffering/dying pay for our sins; wearing work clothes. He puts those same work clothes (armor of God) on us so we can fight temptation. And in baptism God clothes us in the outfit he's tailored for us to wear in heaven, robe of his righteousness.
- Wear these clothes well; Jesus wants you wear them. Even more, praise your Savior who gives you his own clothes to wear.

Isaiah 59:12-20

¹² For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: ¹³ rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, inciting revolt and oppression, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. ¹⁴ So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. ¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.

¹⁶ He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. ¹⁸ According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due. ¹⁹ From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along. ²⁰ "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD.