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THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Free Gift Of Righteousness

I. A Covering And A Protection

- A. **Isaiah 61:10** – Wearing the robe of righteousness causes great rejoicing.
 - 1. The **robe** is a covering.
- B. **Ephesians 6:11-14** – It is impossible to defeat the devil without the breastplate of righteousness.
 - 1. God gives it – we must **put it on and receive it.**
You can't deserve it.

II. What Is Righteousness And Who Is Righteous?

- A. **Righteous/Righteousness** (defined) – Right (right is opposite of wrong); figuratively used “of power and authority with God”; denotes freedom; signifies being “just”; an attribute of God (like faithfulness or holiness); “the character or quality of being right or just.”
- B. **Just/Justified** – To be right; to be acquitted, declared not guilty, and made as if you never sinned.

The resulting fruit is “no condemnation” – not guilty.
- C. Justification and righteousness will be seen in right living and right thought, purpose, and action.

1. **Romans** and **Hebrews** – Right standing
2. **Galatians 3:6** – Conforming to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action

D. Who is righteous?

1. **God – Psalm 7:11; 11:7; 145:17**

In all three Persons – Jesus Christ, “The All-Righteous One,” and the Holy Spirit

2. **Romans 3:10-28 – No man is righteous.**

- a. **Isaiah 64:6** – Our righteousness is as filthy rags.
- b. **Romans 3:10-28** – NOW
- c. **Zechariah 2:13-3:7 – Be still all flesh.**

Joshua accused, and got a change of clothes and instruction in living right.

E. **Romans 3:19** – The Law stops the excuses of every mouth, and all are accountable to God.

1. **The Law**

- a. You shall have no other gods before Me (money, job, appearance, education, people, etc).
- b. You shall make to yourself no graven image and worship it.
- c. You shall not use or repeat the Lord’s Name in vain (lightly or frivolously).
- d. Earnestly remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.
- e. Honor your father and mother that it may go well with you and that you have long life.

- f. You shall not murder.
- g. You shall not commit adultery.
- h. You shall not steal.
- i. You shall not bear false witness (lie or exaggerate).
- j. You shall not covet (want what your neighbor has: his wife, house, car, servant, or anything that is your neighbor's).

2. **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP THE LAW!**

F. **Romans 5:15-17** – Free gift of righteousness

1. **II Corinthians 5:21** – Made righteous

III. Self-Righteous

A. Taking credit for the right you do

- 1. Creates boasting, pride, and judgment
- 2. **I Corinthians 1:19** – Come to nothing.
- 3. **I Corinthians 1:25-31** – To eliminate boasting
- 4. **I Corinthians 2:2** – Know nothing.

B. Be sure to voice humility.

- 1. Take credit for the wrongs we do – responsibility for sin.
 - a. **Romans 12:3**
 - b. **Galatians 6:1-3**
 - c. **Romans 12:16**
 - d. **Romans 11:25**

C. Signs that a person does not know who they are in Christ:

1. Boasting and bragging
2. Judging (gossip, tale bearing, and backbiting)
3. Faultfinding
4. Pride

The Search For Self-Worth

I. Worthless

A. Worthless (defined) – Good for nothing, no good, without value, junk, incapable; therefore, having nothing anyone would want; useless. Occurs through verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse; rejection and abandonment.

1. Two kinds of cover-up
 - a. **Extreme** shyness, timidity, fear; withdrawal
 - b. **Extreme** boldness; harsh forwardness that attempts to hide the real insecurities

B. The search can end at Christ.

1. **II Corinthians 5:21** – Made right
2. **VIEWED** as being right

Why? God **chooses** to see me as righteous because He wants to.
3. **Ephesians 1:4-5** – God chose to love us and view us as **blameless** because He wanted to. It **pleased** Him.
 - a. **Verse 7** – Redemption in Him
 - b. Example: Dave adopted David. Dave chose to love and accept David before David accepted him – before he even had a relationship with him or knew him. Dave chose to love David and accept him as his son because of his love for me and because David was a part of me.
4. **Isaiah 43:1, 4** – Redeemed because we are **precious**

5. **I Corinthians 1:30-31** – It is from Him that our life is “in Christ.”
 - a. **I Corinthians 1:25-31** – Everything
 - b. **I Corinthians 1:19** – Nothing

Everything “in Christ” – nothing in myself

6. **Galatians 4:4-7** – Purchased and adopted
7. **I Corinthians 6:20** – You were bought with a price (the Blood); purchased with a preciousness and paid for.

II. Received By Faith

- A. Jesus did it, but it must be received by faith.
 1. See Christ instead of yourself.
 - a. **II Samuel: Chapter 9** – David and Mephibosheth
 - b. **Hebrews 12:2** – Looking away from all that will distract unto Jesus – **STOP** looking at everything that is wrong with you. **Look at Jesus.**
 2. Balancing your account
 - a. The debt owed because of sin.
(The debit on the ledger)
 - b. **Romans 4:2-11**
 - c. **Genesis: Chapter 15**
 - d. Faith is credited as righteousness to balance the account.

A Sure Foundation (Stability)

I. Stable, Steadfast, Secure, And Unshaken

A. **Hebrews 12:26-27** – Often, God shakes all that can be shaken; so that what cannot be shaken remains. (God loves me, and I am righteous in Christ.)

1. Hard, dry, and disappointing times won't leave you **devastated** if you have a proper foundation in **your life**.

a. **Romans: Chapter 8** – **Nothing should separate us from God's love.**

b. **Proverbs 10:25** – *When the whirlwind passes, the wicked are no more, but the [uncompromisingly] righteous have an everlasting foundation.*

B. Building without foundations

1. **Hebrews 5:13** – Milk is for those unskilled in righteousness.

2. Babies are unstable, easily upset, or shaken, etc.

3. **Isaiah 54:14-17** – Establish yourself in righteousness.

Righteousness, peace, security, and triumph over opposition all go together.

4. **Romans 1:17**

C. Trees without roots

1. **I Corinthians 3:10** – A crack in a foundation causes a mess every time it rains or storms.

2. **Mark 4:14-17** – No real root – so when trouble comes, they can't endure.
3. **Colossians 2:7** – “In Him” I have authority – authority in Him.

II. Righteousness And Warfare

- A. **James 5:16-18** – Prayer in warfare
 1. **I Kings 18:42-45** – Give up easily
- B. **Ephesians 6:14** – Breastplate of righteousness
 1. Covers heart – has to do with guilt and condemnation
- C. **Proverbs 24:16** – A righteous man falls seven times and gets up again.
 1. He will not give up – so he defeats the enemy.
 2. **Psalm 34:19** – Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but God delivers him out of them all. (**He must persevere.**)
- D. The weapon of righteousness
 1. **II Corinthians 6:7** – To defend or to attack
 Defend yourself from Satan's lies.
- E. **I Peter 5:8-9** – Defeat the devil through being rooted and established.
 1. **Proverbs 28:1** – The righteous are bold **as a lion**.

III. The Way Is Hard.

- A. **Unstable**
 1. **Up and down** is hard.
 2. **Easily hurt** is hard.

3. **Insecure** is hard.
 4. **Living by the Law** is hard.
 - a. Law received on STONE tablets is hard – even impossible. It makes us hard and; and in turn, we are hard on others.
 - b. **Ezekiel 11:19-20** – I will take the stony heart out of you and give you a heart of flesh (that you can do right).
- B. **The way of the transgressor** is hard. The path of the righteous grows brighter and brighter to the full day.
1. Do you see yourself as a **transgressor or a righteous person?**

IV. Righteousness And Peace

- A. **Romans 14:17** – The kingdom is righteousness, peace, and joy – and “in that order.”
- B. **Psalms 85:10** – Righteousness and peace have kissed each other (mercy and truth have met together).
- C. **Isaiah 32:17** – The effect of righteousness shall be peace.

V. What Shall I Do If I Am Lacking?

- A. **Philippians 3:7-8** – Paul said he would give up all else to gain this revelation knowledge.
- B. Don't always look for a milk bottle. Start cutting teeth.

Hardhearted Christians With Hardly Any Joy (The Harvest Of Righteousness)

- I. **The Way Is Hard Where There Is No Righteousness.**
 - A. Revelation of righteousness
 - 1. **Romans 3:20-22**
 - B. Fulfillment of righteousness
 - 1. **Matthew 3:15 (13-15)**
 - C. Servants of righteousness, not sin
 - 1. **Romans 6:1, 11-13, 18**
 - 2. **Romans 7:6** – Led by the promptings of the Spirit, free from the Law
 - 3. Spirit leads in righteousness.
 - 4. We **know** what is right.
 - D. The way of the transgressor is hard, but the path of the righteous grows brighter and brighter.
 - 1. **Proverbs 13:15**
 - 2. **Proverbs 12:28; 13:6, 9** – Uncompromisingly
 - 3. **Proverbs 3:32** – The secret council of God is with the righteous.

(Give examples of when is it hard to do right.)

II. Fruit And Harvest

- A. **James 3:18** – The harvest of righteousness is the fruit of the seed sown.
 - 1. **Harvest** – Gathering in of fruit **to reap**. It lasted about seven weeks and it was also the occasion of festivities.
 - 2. **Fruit** – The visible expression of power working inwardly and invisibly; the character of the fruit being evidence of the character of the power (**Galatians 5:22-23**).
 - a. Fruit is the work, which His presence within accomplishes.
 - b. The Fruit of the Spirit is **evidence** of the Spirit working inwardly.
- B. Fruit and harvest are key issues in the Word.

III. When Is It Hard To Do Right?

- A. When you don't have a revelation on righteousness through Christ
- B. When you don't feel like it
 - 1. Pure decision – No feelings to help
 - 2. **Romans 8:17** – To share His glory, we must share His suffering.
- C. When you're "weary" – faint, tired, and worn out (spiritually, physically, and mentally) – **not seeing good results**
 - 1. **Galatians 6:9-10** – Be not weary in well doing.
 - 2. **II Thessalonians 3:13**
- D. When you seem to be the only one in your "group" that is doing right

1. Great temptation to compromise (many reasons)
Want friends; lonely; don't want rejection, to be talked about, or made fun of
2. Elijah thought he was alone in righteousness, but God had one thousand more.
3. This is one of the hardest times ever to be a Christian.

The beginning was hard, and the end will be hard.

E. During specific attacks of temptation

1. Temptation must come.
2. They purify and make us stronger.

F. When you have not been in the Word, **fellowshipping** with other believers, or **fellowshipping** with God

1. No strength = No victory

G. It is hard to do what is right when you are not being treated right – like learning to love the unlovely.

1. The Lord said, “If you want to be like Me, this is the way I am all the time.”
2. Jesus does what is right, and He **endures** our wrongs continually.

Love endures long and is patient and kind.

3. **I Peter 4:19** – When suffering, do right and deposit your soul with God.

DO RIGHT = HARVEST IS COMING.

