...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV

One of the people at the table with Jesus heard him say those things.

So he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in God's kingdom."

Jesus replied, "A certain man was preparing a great banquet. He invited many guests. Then the day of the banque arrived. He sent his servant to those who had been invited. The servant told them, 'Come. Everything is ready now.'



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"But they all had the same idea. They began to make excuses. The first one said, 'I have just bought a field. I have to go and see it. Please excuse me.' "Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen. I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'



"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'



"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry. He ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the town. Bring in those who are poor. Also bring those who can't see or walk.'

"'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done. But there is still room.'

4

6



"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads. Go out to the country lanes. Make the people come in. I want my house to be full. I tell you, not one of those people who were invited will get a taste of my banquet." Luke 14:15-24 NIV

On Mount Zion the LORD who rules over all will prepare a feast for all the nations. The best and richest foods and the finest aged wines will be served. On that mountain the LORD will destroy the veil of sadness that covers all the

He will destroy the gloom that is spread over everyone. He will swallow up death forever.



5

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The LORD and King will wipe away the tears from everyone's face. He will remove the shame of his people from the whole earth. The LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 25:6-8 NIRV

Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: "Praise the LORD! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honour to him.

8

For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.

She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.

For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people.

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."

Revelation 19:6-8 NIV

9 10

"It isn't enough to say that we ourselves are the people dragged in from the country lanes, to our surprise, to enjoy Gods party. That may be true but party guests are then expected to become party hosts in their turn".

N. T. Wright

11