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Tailor Made

One of my least favorite memories of childhood was being dragged to the fabric store along with my two sisters. There we would spend hours in silent boredom surrounded by bolts and bolts of fabric, spools of thread, women with large scissors, and that crinkly yellow paper that sewing patterns come printed on. You see, my Mom loved to sew. She sewed dresses for my sisters, made bedspreads, table cloths, and all sorts of things. She even managed to add stuffing to my sleeping bag to make it warmer before one hunting trip with my Dad. Sewing for Mom was more than just a hobby, it was a passion and she was really good at it. She could take just about any piece of material and turn it into something useful and fashionable, simply by running it through a Singer sewing machine. It was amazing, material went in this side and a set of curtains came out the other.

After Pastor Don called this week and asked me to speak, I asked the Lord what He wanted me to talk about. It just so happens that the Lord and my Mom both have a passion for sewing. And although I still don't like to go to fabric stores, or clothes shopping in general, I have a better appreciation for those who sew, and some new insights into the Scriptures.

It is said that the pages of the Bible have a scarlet thread running through them. Indeed God's word, written down by many authors over much time, is woven together by His ever unfolding plan of salvation to restore man to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ, the scarlet thread. God loves to sew.

As a student of Chuck Colson's Centurions program I have arranged this sermon to answer the three basic questions that every person asks: Where did we come from, why are we here, and where are we going.

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1. God created the world

In the beginning, God, a Tailor of unimaginable skill, crafted the universe like a beautiful prom dress or a formal ball gown, falling smoothly across every undulation, not a single wrinkle to be seen, not a seam out of place, fitting perfectly without need of any alterations. This formal gown, this universe, was cut from the very finest cloth and stitched together with a thread of love...a thread so strong that as we shall see nothing can break it, not even the sinfulness of man.

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Psalm 102

25 In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

26 They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
Like clothing you will change them
and they will be discarded.

How many of you went to your closet this morning and found some clothes to wear that you have never seen before? Clothes that were not in your closet last night when you went to bed? No. Has it ever happened, other than perhaps through a purchase by your spouse or parents? No, the clothes in our closet were made somewhere, by someone. They all come with a little label attached that says the brand, size, and place of manufacture. Now in the case of my sisters it was generally made by my Mom on her sewing machine in our home so no label was attached, none was necessary since we all knew who and where they had been made.

When we look at the magnificent gown that is our universe, complete with gems sewn into the night sky, we need to ask ourselves where did it come from and who made it. We need to look for the label. And if we really look, earnestly seek, we will find the label. It says, in the beginning, God, the Master Tailor, created the universe out of nothing. He didn't buy fabric, He didn't look for a pattern, He did not run it through a Singer sewing machine, He willed it into creation and sustains its very existence. God is the only name on the label. He is the someone and the somewhere.

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2. God created man

The Master Tailor having created the universe as a breathtaking gown desired for someone to wear it, someone on whom to lavish His handiwork. The Lord picked up His needle and thread again and created man. He created someone to live in the universe and so He wove together man in His own image.

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Psalm 139

13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

We are tailor made by the Master, “knitted together” is the way that we are described by Job, “woven together in our mother’s womb” is the way the psalmist records it. Our Father has created each of us uniquely, with special gifts and talents that He wants us to use in service for Him. We are the products of a master craftsman deliberately creating unique works of art.

I have two sisters Pamela and Susan, and that meant that my Mom had to make two of everything. Now she sometimes made them from the same material and other times they were the same style but in different material. Now she usually made one of the dresses and then tried it on my sister, over and over again until she made all the necessary alternations. My other sister would get the next dress, which was not quite the same as the first because my Mom had learned some things, like where to leave extra material, where to reinforce a stitch, where to cut it a little smaller than the pattern. Basically the pattern evolved over time because my Mom learned more about sewing the pattern with each dress that she made.

Now I love my Mom, but she can’t hold a thimble to God when it comes to sewing. God our Creator does not use a pattern. But like the dresses that my Mom sewed He crafts each one of us uniquely. But with God there are no alternations to make, no reinforcing of stitches, and no improvements to make. You see God is perfect, He does not have to learn or gain experience, He knows all and can do all perfectly. God doesn’t need to evolve a pattern to make better and better human beings. He made Adam perfect and continues to tailor make each one of us perfect. Any imperfections in us are a result of what we do or have done to the perfect body God has made.

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3. The Fall and a Promise

Mankind is no sooner stitched together and given this magnificent gown of the universe than man tears the gown creating a hole that cannot be repaired by any amount of earthly sewing. Man has separated himself from God and the first thing that Adam and Eve do after eating of the forbidden fruit is to make coverings for themselves by sewing together fig leaves, in an effort to cover-up the hole, kind of a fig leaf patch if you will.

God sees right through this, His perfect gown has a tear in it. That tear means that the perfect God and the torn gown must be separated. God curses the serpent, the woman, and the earth the man will work. But before escorting Adam and Eve out of the Garden, God in His love makes clothes for His children to replace their leafy outfits and shelter them for life in a fallen world.

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[Genesis 3:21](#)

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Now typically Adam and Eve are depicted as wearing loin cloths like George of the Jungle or Tarzan and Jane. Our Father doesn't go into the Garden, kill a water buffalo and hand Adam a leather hide and say "here ya go, wrap this around your waist". No, God our Father, who created the gown of the universe out of nothing, the Master Tailor made garments for Adam and Eve. We are not told how God made the garments to clothe them, but knowing the attributes of God we know He does all things out of love and can be certain that the clothing He made for them was also made in love and crafted to help them live in an imperfect world.

Before leaving the Garden, God also tells them that One will come who will restore both the magnificent gowns of the universe and mankind.

As a boy living in a neighborhood with about a dozen other kids I often found myself in..... situations that were harmful to clothes. Back when I was a boy warning signs were few and far between, so the idea that rocks, tree forts, fishing hooks and street hockey could somehow damage my clothes never entered my mind. This is where my Mom steps in again. You see besides being able to sew new clothes, my Mom was also skilled at repairing torn and mutilated clothes. She knew just how to patch a pair of pants such that they never tore in that spot again. The only thing she couldn't do was make them "good as new", you see once you tear a hole in a pair of pants, the best you can do is stitch it together or patch it, you can never remove the hole.

Now we have already established that God is a perfect tailor and makes each of us perfectly. But when man tore a hole in the perfect gown that God made for us by sinning against Him, no amount of stitches or a well placed patch would do. You see that hole was an offense against God, the Master Tailor, and only perfect gowns are allowed to be in His presence. There was nothing man could do to cover-up or repair the hole. Somehow the gown of our bodies had to be restored by One who could truly make them "good as new", and that was going to take the work of a remarkable Tailor.

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4. Salvation

The scarlet thread of salvation runs throughout the Old Testament from the many cloaks of Joseph to the special powers in the cloak of Elijah. Each chapter weaves the story of redemption further and provides us background on the One who is to come and make things "good as new". As the Old Testament draws to a close and we are left with the image of the coming Redeemer, and the Tailor is clothing Him with material far more stately than the linen of the angels.

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[Zechariah 6:13](#)

It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.

The time had come for Christ, the son of the Tailor, the spool of scarlet thread that binds the books of the Bible together, to step into God's creation.

Christ comes wearing no special garment as far as man is concerned, but as we read in the Gospels His earthly garments could not conceal His glory. People are healed by touching His cloak, and many of the parables He used deal with clothing, cloaks, and garments. But earthly clothing was not the mission of the Tailor's Son. At the end of His earthly ministry we see Jesus strip off His garments and wash the feet of His disciples. Another tailor made opportunity to teach us His ways, the ways of service to others, the way of humbleness. God the Father, the One who clothed us before leading us out of the Garden, the Tailor who provided cloaks and garments throughout the Old Testament, gives us His Son, and after washing the feet of His disciples Jesus put on His earthly clothes for the very last time.

The Tailor's Son, is striped, beaten, and then hung naked on a cross to pay the price for our sins and earn salvation for all men. The Tailor's Son, dies doing the will of the Father and is left without a stitch. His very clothes which healed the sick become used hand me downs bet on by the soldiers who nailed Him to the cross.

It looked as though our hope for the One to restore our cloak was lost. But this was not the end, behold the evidence in the empty tomb are the death clothes of Jesus Christ.

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[Luke 24](#)

12Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

We know what happened and as Peter found out later. Christ rose from the dead and threw off the clothes of death. He paid the price for all the tears in our clothes and for all the holes and tears that are to come. Christ, the Tailor's Son, the One promised in the book of Genesis came not to patch our clothes, not to stitch them back together, not even to make them look 'good as new'. No, He learned the trade from His Father who only makes perfect clothes. Christ came to provide us with new clothes, a free set for all who accept His gift of salvation.

Repent of your sins and ask Christ to forgive you and become the Lord of your life and you will receive these new clothes, tailor made for you. It is the best deal going, the cost is the same as it was almost 2000 years ago, FREE, and the way to get the free clothes has not changed, it is the same for everyone. Admit your clothes have tears in them from sin and ask Christ to forgive you and give you a new set of clothes.

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5. Restoration

And as believers in Christ, redeemed by His blood we are dressed in these new clothes. Christ gives us new clothes that are for the inside as well as for the outside, His new clothes are tailor made to fit on the perfect bodies that His Father wove together while we were in our Mother's womb. These new clothes are meant to be worn 24-7, they are meant to transform your body, mind and soul, not just cover your body. Now these clothes might get torn due to sin in our lives, but through the cleansing work of Christ they will always be good as new as the material from which they are cut restores itself immediately, repent of your sin and the tear is gone, miraculously restored.

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[Galatians 3:27](#)

for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

We are a new creation in Christ Jesus and are clothed by Him. How many of you are walking around with tears in the clothes that Christ gave you? Repent of your sins and watch the tears miraculously restored, watch your clothes mend through the power of Jesus Christ.

How many of you enjoy getting new clothes? As a kid I never got excited about a new shirt or pants for Easter. My sisters on the other hand thought that it was great that our Mom was making them new clothes. They couldn't wait to try them on. What they liked most was wearing them for the first time. Kind of that "look at me I have a new dress". Mom worked hard to sew these outfits for Easter so that the girls would look their best for God. We also rejoice when we put on our new clothes in Christ. But as my sisters will tell you, new clothes need accessories. And our new clothes in Christ come with many accessories.

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[Colossians 3:12-14](#),

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord

forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

As I said my sisters loved the new clothes and accessorizing them, but as with all things in this world the clothes get used, then get washed, then get used, then get washed in an ongoing cycle that slowly sees the new clothes change. In many cases as my sister's good clothes became more worn they took on new roles as play clothes or chore clothes. They changed from fashionable clothes to functional clothes and sooner or later would wear out.

Our new clothes in Christ are similar. We rejoice in the clothes the Tailor has provided for us and we delight in the new feel and look, but the new clothes are not fashionable clothes they are functional clothes. We are to break in these new clothes by doing good works, by loving others, and by forgiving all. We are to accessorize these new clothes with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

But unlike my sister's clothes, don't worry about wearing out your new clothes in Christ, you can't wear them out. Wear them all the time for work and play. While on earth you cannot outgrow them. But they are not your final set of clothes. God is weaving new garments for us, to prepare for the new heaven and the new earth where we live with the Master Tailor forever.

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[Revelation 21:2](#)

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

We are preparing for our final set of clothes, clean and white, cut from the finest fabric, and tailor made for eternity with God. When we put on these clothes we do not have to worry about tears because in the new heaven and new earth there is nothing that can tear our clothes. When we put on these clothes we do not have to worry about wearing them out for they last forever and never fade. These are the perfect clothes that are eternally fashionable and functional.

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May this brief survey of the Master Tailor remind us that we are clothed by God, we tore the original clothes He made for us and everyone of us was born with a tear in our clothes. That tear separates us from the Master Tailor who only has perfect garments around Him. Jesus Christ, the Son of the Tailor, redeemed us by being stripped of His clothes. He provides new clothes for all those who accept Him as Lord and Savior. Our time on earth should be spent wearing the new clothes Christ has given us and

accessorizing them for all to see. Clothes that have many accessories bound together by love.

Are you wearing your new clothes from Christ 24/7? Are you wearing them for work and play? These clothes are not just Sunday dress clothes, but they are our life clothes. They function as pajamas, robes, work clothes, office clothes, driving clothes, they are fashionable and functional in situation.

When was the last time you accessorized your new clothes in Christ? When was the last time you added a scarf of compassion or a sash of kindness to them? God wants us to accessorize the clothes He gives us. These accessories are what changes the clothes from dress clothes to functional clothes.

We want folks everywhere to look at our new clothes and say “wow, where did you get them” because that is our opportunity to tell them about the Master Tailor and His Son.

My thanks to my Mom and sisters for the memories and to Pastor Don and my wife for their encouragement and editorial skills which helped shape this sermon. However the credit goes to The Father, the Master Tailor who knit me together, and to His Son, who gave me new clothes when I accepted Him as Lord of my life, and to the Holy Spirit who indwells these new clothes and directs the work of my hands. So I conclude with

Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Please stand and join me in prayer.

Jesus, you learned the trade of your Father. You gave up your clothes to provide us with new clothes so that we might be acceptable before the Master Tailor. Help us to wear the new clothes you have provided 24/7 and help us to accessorize them so they may be functional clothes, clothes we wear on the job for you doing all forms of good works in the advancement of your Kingdom here on earth. Through the power of the Holy Spirit who is woven into the very fabric of the cloth direct the work of our hands so that when you call us to the Master Tailor’s workshop we may be rewarded with a new garment, a garment that will last forever.

Amen.

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This sermon is an overview of a larger work exploring the passages of Scripture dealing with God, The Master Tailor and His people.