

New Coats
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I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.
Isaiah 61:10a

Just last month, I looked at my coat and wondered, “How long have I had this thing?” The earliest recollection that I have of wearing it was on May 3, 2013 when a freak snowstorm hit rural Missouri. It was also my daughter’s senior year in high school. (It’s funny how parenting changes the way we remember things.) After remembering how long I had had that coat, the numerous times that I had washed it, and the numerous times that I had hand-sewn the lining and pockets back together, I decided it was time for a new one.

The Bible talks about coats, cloaks, or robes. You know them—Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together, Joseph and the coat of many colors, and the Palm Sunday account of people laying their cloaks on the road to welcome King Jesus. All of these coats were memorable for these people. You can imagine them looking at the coat and saying, “Oh, that was the cloak that we made...”, “This is the robe that Dad made me...”, and “This is the coat I laid down in the road for King Jesus.”

So now back to my coats. I have two now. The old one and the new one. Would I lay the old one down in the road? Sure. Would I lay the new one down in the road? Probably not. Here’s the challenge for you: what is your *metaphorical* new coat? What means so much to you that you would cleave to it rather than lay it down for a donkey to walk on, even a donkey that was carrying Jesus? Is it your money, time, talent? Is it your phone or your athletic prowess? You get the idea.

Think about your confirmation vows. We promised to “suffer all, even death” for the sake of our Lord Jesus. He did that for us and rose from the grave on Easter to save us! Think about it and choose this day for whom and to what you will serve and lay down your coat for Jesus.