

## New Wine and Old Wineskins Luke 5:33-39 (8/2/09 AM)

The background of this passage is the salvation of Levi, also known as Matthew. His first instinct as a new Christ follower was to invite all his family and friends to meet Jesus. He held a great banquet in his own home at which Jesus was certainly the guest of honor. The reaction of the Pharisees was swift and predictable. Their sanctimonious accusation is recorded in verse 30.

### 1. The Question of the John's Disciples (33)

#### *A Sincere Question*

These are disciples of John the Baptist.

- **The question is born out of** \_\_\_\_\_

The only prescribed fast in the Old Testament was associated with the Day of Atonement. The issue here was the man-made Pharisaic traditions.

The Pharisees fasted twice a week.

**External Outward** \_\_\_\_\_ **Were the Substance of their Religion**

### 2. The Answer of Jesus (34-35)

#### *The Illustration of a Wedding*

Wedding celebrations would last for at least a week. The practice of fasting was suspended for those in attendance. A wedding is not a place for mourning.

- **Their rituals had no connection to** \_\_\_\_\_

Their fasting, praying, and almsgiving rituals had nothing to do with what God was doing in their midst. Why were the Pharisees fasting and mourning when the promised Messiah was in their midst. They should have been rejoicing. They were like Christians today who connect worship to somberness and confuse gloominess with reverence.

Legalism is often expressed in different ways:

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ **Legalism**

Doing good works, rituals, and liturgy etc. will get you to heaven.

- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ **Legalism**

This is getting into the pattern of obeying God out of habit and \_\_\_\_\_ not from the heart.

- (3) \_\_\_\_\_ **Legalism**

If you are not serving God the way I am, you are not as spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ as me.

Jesus gave an unusual illustration of the bridegroom dying. The words "will be taken away" speak of sudden violent removal. He was speaking of His coming crucifixion and death. The disciples would fast when there was something to fast about.

**Outward Expressions of Worship Are Only Valid When Connected to an Inward**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Reality**

### 3. The Illustrations of Jesus (36-39)

#### *Explains the Profound through the Everyday*

No one would take a piece from a new garment to patch an old one. In so doing you would ruin both pieces. Winemaking was a chief industry in Israel. Wineskins were made out of animal skins, often goats. The skin would expand and contract as the new wine fermented, which took from 2 to 4 months. When the wine was poured out the old skin would become brittle and cracked. This was common knowledge to the people of that day.

- **The forms of ritualistic traditional Judaism could not contain or express the**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **of Jesus**

The Jews of Jesus' day had forsaken God's Word to hold to their traditions.

Mark 7:13, "making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down." The "old wineskins" is not the Old Testament scriptures but the Jewish man-made traditions. Since they would not repent and come to Jesus, their only option was to eliminate Him from their religious system.

**Religious Traditionalism** \_\_\_\_\_ **Christ and His Gospel**

4. The Application for Today

***Wineskins Represent Our Practices and Traditions***

The wineskins were practical, necessary and useful. It was the wine, however, that was primary and essential. The Gospel is essential.

• **The new wineskin \_\_\_\_\_ itself to the new wine**

(37) “No one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled”

New wineskins were pliable. Our structures and patterns of doing things must be adaptable. Some of our means are biblical and therefore permanent. For example, the preaching of the Gospel is mandated in scripture. 2 Timothy 4:2.

**Is This Wineskin Biblical or \_\_\_\_\_?**

• **Wineskins were made for \_\_\_\_\_**

Wine was not stored for extended periods of time in a wineskin. It would eventually give the wine a bad taste. We must be careful not to hang on to ineffective and outdated methodology. (38) “But new wine must be put into

new wineskins, and both are preserved.” The Gospel at times can seem tasteless to the world because of old patterns and styles of doing things.

**Has This Wineskin Outlived Its \_\_\_\_\_?**

• **Wineskins were made for \_\_\_\_\_**

The wineskin was the point of contact between the world and the wine. The Christian and the church is the point of contact between the world and the

Gospel. Christians and churches have an inherent tendency to hold on to old wineskins. (39) “And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'” The point is that people tend to want the old and reject the new assuming (in this case wrongly) that the old is better. As Christians we are to “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things”, Titus 2:10. The Greek word is the root of our word cosmetic.

**Is This Wineskin a Bridge or has it Become a \_\_\_\_\_?**