

Luke 5 pt 4

Luke 5:33-39 (NIV) (also in Matthew 9:14-17 & Mark 2:18-22)

³³ They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."

³⁴ Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? ³⁵ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

³⁶ He told them this parable: "No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. ³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸ No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. ³⁹ And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'"

1. Jesus is enjoying a feast with Levi and his friends / sinners
 - a. A joyous occasion where Levi leaves his old life and follows Jesus
2. The Pharisees ask Jesus about fasting
3. "Why do the disciples of John and the Pharisees fast & pray, but Your disciples go on eating and drinking?"
 - a. This was not a sincere question
 - b. They were just called self righteous
 - c. It was an accusation
- 4. They want to find some fault with Jesus to trap Him**

5. They were known for

- a. **Fasting**
- b. **Prayers**
- c. **Giving alms**

6. They fasted twice a week

- a. Monday and Thursday from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm
- b. They were very public with their fasting, prayer & giving
 - i. It's how they showed everyone how religious they were

7. Jesus seemed to be invited from place to place always enjoying a meal and having a good time

8. Jesus is not against fasting

- a. He fasted Himself for 40 days
- b. One of the purposes of fasting is to draw close to God
 - i. Spend time with Him
- c. It's not about getting God to change His mind
- d. Fasting, praying, giving should be a private matter
- e. **Matthew 6:16** "Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face 18 so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."

9. The Pharisees were practicing these rituals in trying to please God.

- a. **Trying to find favor with Him**

10. In wisdom, Jesus uses the opportunity to explain a beautiful truth

I. Foundation

II. Explanation

I. Foundation

1. "Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them"
2. This should spark a few questions
 - a. Who is "the bridegroom"?
 - b. Who is "the bride"
 - c. Who are "His friends"
 - d. Why will the bridegroom be taken away?
 - e. **None of these questions ever came up.**
3. **The answer to these questions is the foundation of this passage**
 - a. Jesus is the bridegroom
 - b. The bride is the believers
 - c. His disciples are His friends who become part of the bride
 - d. His going away means death, burial & resurrection
4. **Jesus as our bridegroom is not a new concept**
5. **John 3:29 (John the Baptist)** The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and

listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice

6. **Isaiah 54:5** For your Maker *is* your husband, The Lord of hosts *is* His name; And your Redeemer *is* the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. ⁶ For the Lord has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused," Says your God
7. **Isaiah 62:5** as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you
8. Another statement that Jesus is God
9. The picture is not one of religion and ceremony
 - a. It's a picture of a husband/wife relationship

i. Which begins with a proposal

- b. If she say's yes, then we have a wedding
- c. Weddings are a joyous occasion
- d. A special time where a man and a woman who were not connected become intimately connected at the deepest and most meaningful level.
- e. It's where the groom gives up everything for the bride and vice versa.
- f. Your whole life changes by this blessed event.
 - i. If it's based on love, life is good
 - ii. If it's based on selfishness, it can be terrible

- g. In the O.T, the people of Israel (the wife) were not faithful
- h. They are pictured like an adulterous wife
- i. **Matthew 5:32**, Jesus said, **But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery**
- j. Adultery is grounds for divorce

i. Although Israel was not faithful to God, He did not divorce her

- k. **Hosea 1:2** When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord

- i. **Hosea 2:19** I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the Lord

ii. God's covenant to His people is unbreakable

- iii. It's the same idea in the N.T
- iv. **2 Cor 11:2** I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
- v. The day I said "I do" is when I agree and am in covenant with God

10. My service to God is not done for any other reason than love

- a. Fasting, praying, giving... are not something done to earn from God
- b. Just as a bride does not serve her husband (vice versa) to earn the marriage
- c. A spouse serves out of love, as a result of the love
- d. Unless we realize this foundational truth, we'll always strive to please God and be afraid of His judgment
- e. Notice the guests in Levi's home were not afraid of Jesus
 - i. They ate, drank and enjoyed themselves
 - ii. **Psalm 16:11** In your presence is the fullness of Joy
 - iii. In His presence is freedom, acceptance & rest

II. Explanation

1. **He gives them 2 analogies of the cloth and the wineskin**
2. **No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one**
3. His audience can certainly relate to the cloth and wineskin examples
4. No one asked Him what it meant
 - a. What the link is between fasting and the old vs. new idea?
 - b. What does He mean by all of this?
5. The old is old way of doing things to please God

6. It cannot work with the new
 - a. Trying to get God's attention with our works
 - b. It cannot & will not work because of the new
 - c. The old covenant did not work
7. **Jer 31:31** "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.
³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, "declares the LORD.
8. The old order of doing things was trying to get God's attention by "pulling on His robe"
 - a. Looking to earn something from God
 - b. Trying to please God or appease Him with their efforts of doing good
 - i. Praying, fasting, giving...
9. The new order is a system of Grace
 - a. A free gift where we believe and receive from God
 - b. God extends this free gift to humanity
 - c. Salvation is available to any and all who want it
 - d. Favor with God is available to everyone

e. This is the new order of things under Jesus

10. The Old /new cloth, old /new wineskin don't work together

a. You cannot patch the old legal system & Grace

b. Imagine someone giving you a free gift

i. Trying to pay for it voids the gift

ii. Paying for it rejects the gift

iii. That's patching the old with the new

iv. The tear will be made worse

11. Wineskins were made from animal skins

12. Pouring new wine into new skins worked because the new wine expands

a. Old wineskin is rigid and will break

13. You need new skin for the new wine

14. That's why we become a new creation and all things become new

15. Although the O.T & N.T may look similar on the outside

a. A closer look reveals a big difference

b. Legalism vs. Grace

16. The new covenant is love, forgiveness, righteousness

a. I cannot patch this over the old of works to gain love, earn forgiveness and cry out for righteousness

- i. Trying to earn God's favor vs. I've already got God's favor
- 17. The ritualistic system of the law and the law of grace cannot co-exist.
 - a. They are not the same (material).
- 18. When believers mingle the law with grace, the whole thing falls apart.**
- 19. This may be why **religion** doesn't work for many people.
 - a. The law is rigid and leaves no room for error.
 - b. Grace is simply receiving what has been done for me
- 20. Some begin by faith and grace and try to live their life by fulfilling the law. (**Gal 3:1-9**)
- 21. **Galatians 5:4** "You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law. You are fallen from grace."
 - a. It's not compatible
- 22. In the new, I serve or give or fast not to earn something from God - get His attention
 - a. I already have God's attention
 - b. **I do these things out of love**
 - c. **This love will cause you to expand**
 - d. **A believer who is not moving forward is moving back**

- e. I serve out of love to honor God with the talents He gave me
- f. I fast because I want to spend time with Him & draw closer
- g. I give because I realize that all of it belongs to God anyway

23. What about those who are under the law and are rigid in the church?

24. What happens to the old skins?

25. It was too expensive to replace

- a. The solution was to place the old skins in water to make it soft and pliable again
- b. That's our solution when we've become rigid
- c. Soak in the Word of God and allow it to soften us