

New wine, new wineskins

Red Letters - Luke 5:33-39

Luke 5:33-39

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.”

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

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. 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. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better.’”

Context

- Early days of Jesus ministry
- First few disciples, Levi, the tax collector
- At his house for a banquet, with tax collectors
- Starting to see that he was 'different'
- But not comfortable with his authority
- Contrary to their religious ways



Context

- Growing reputation of controversies
 - forgives sins, eats with tax collectors
- And now seemed annoyed by his disciples ‘eating and drinking”
- Other disciples fasted and prayed
- Looking to discredit him, growing followers
- Or genuinely blinded and didn’t have a revelation of who Jesus was

Fasting in the OT



2 Samuel 1:11-12

1 Samuel 7:5-6

2 Chronicles 20:2-4

Ezra 8:21-23

Zechariah 7:3-5

Then the word of the LORD Almighty came to me: “Ask all the people of the land and the priests, ‘When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted?’”

Isaiah 58: 1-5

Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for people to humble themselves?
Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Matt 6:1

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them... “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting.

Luke 18:11-12

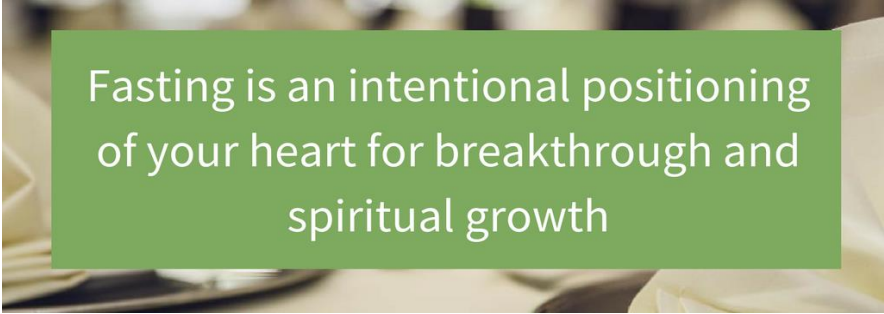
The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

Pharisees fasting

- No longer authentic
- A religious habit
- For show, external
- To prove holier than others

Purpose of fasting

- Express grief
- Repentance
- Inquire of the Lord
- Protection



Fasting is an intentional positioning
of your heart for breakthrough and
spiritual growth

Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them?



- I am the object of your fasting
- Those who have a revelation of who I am are making the most of the time
- I am here, fasting is not appropriate

But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast

- Jesus is not opposed to fasting
- There is a time for fasting...
- When he is no longer present in body
- *They* will fast

Do not mix the old and the new

No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one... And no one pours new wine into old wineskins

- Unshrunk cloth or old wineskins = fasting rituals and traditions of the pharisees
- Garment or wine = Christ's new doctrine
- Do not force traditional fasting rituals into new discipleship



Both will be ruined

- Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, *and* the patch from the new will not match the old... Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out *and* the wineskins will be ruined.
- Value in true fasting in old covenant
- the ceremonies, sacrifices, and other elements of the old covenant were only a shadow of things to come - Christ came to fulfil the law
- Fasting rituals in the new covenant would distort the truth

New wineskins for new wine

- **No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins**
- Christ has come
- New covenant, with new doctrine of Christ
- New way of discipleship

And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better'

- Pharisees devoted to old covenant practices
- Difficult accept new discipleship of Jesus
- Preferred old fasting rituals and traditions
- the new wine is the one that is to be preferred!

New covenant fasting

- These are the days to fast
 - Christ not with us in body
- For proximity to Christ
 - No longer nearness in space or time, but relationship
- Spirit-led, inward
 - Rather than dictated, religious



Let us be new wineskins

- Recognize our impulse to reject the truth of God
 - New trends, but not new truths
- Rigid spiritual perspective limits our ability to grow in Christ
- Has God been leading you to see certain issues differently lately?
 - What has been your response?
 - Rejecting, Rationalizing, Avoiding?

New wine for us

- New wine in to be preferred!
- Christ came and fulfilled the law
- We now live in the new covenant,
- Discipleship is more than religious rituals, legalistic requirements
- Let go of old ways, accept the new
- Not easy but we have help



John 14:26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Conclusion

- We are new covenant disciples
- The Holy Spirit will lead us to new discipleship
- We must be willing to the grow in Christ