

SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES





LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS



HEAD

- ✚ Jesus inaugurates a new Messianic Era marked by new perspectives, practices, and postures.
- ✚ For everything there is a season, a time for **FASTING** and a time for **FEASTING**.
- ✚ Jesus' parables **REVEAL** truth to believers and **CONCEAL** truth from nonbelievers.

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HEART

✚ (1) Jesus used the image of a wedding feast to describe the atmosphere of his ministry on earth – what does it reveal about the character of God that Jesus chose feasting and celebration rather than fasting and solemnity as the defining posture of his presence among his people?

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HEART

✚ (2) Jesus described himself as the bridegroom who would be taken away, which is the first hint in Luke 5 of his coming suffering – how does the tension between the joy of his presence and the grief of his absence shape how we think about worship, fasting, and prayer in our own lives?

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HEART

✚ (3) The parable of the new patch on an old garment illustrates the incompatibility of the new covenant with the old religious system -- where in your own life might you be trying to sew new spiritual growth onto old, worn-out ways of thinking or living?

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HEART

✚ (4) The sermon highlights that there is a season for **fasting** and a season for **feasting**, and that discernment is required to know the difference – how do you personally cultivate the sensitivity to recognize which season God is calling you into at any given time?

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HEART

✚ (5) Jesus consistently responded to the accusations of the religious leaders with parables drawn from everyday life – what does his method of teaching, that REVEALS truth to believers and CONCEALS truth from nonbelievers, evidence about how God communicates truth, and how might that shape the way we share our faith with others?

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HEART

✚ (6) St. Augustine's principle: unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, and charity in all things – was offered as a way to avoid becoming a New Testament Pharisee – where do you find it most difficult to extend liberty or charity to others who practice their faith differently than you do?

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HEART

✚ (7) Jesus said he came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it, and through that fulfillment to inaugurate something entirely new – how does understanding the relationship between the Old and New Covenants deepen your appreciation for what Christ accomplished and the freedom you now have in him?

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 1: **Practice Discernment About Seasons.** Spend time this week in prayer asking God whether this is a season of feasting – celebration, gratitude, and joy – or a season of fasting – intentional abstinence, intercession, and seeking. Write down what you sense God saying and bring that reflection back to the group.

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 2: **Examine Your Old Wineskins**. Identify one area of your spiritual life where you may be clinging to an old method, tradition, or pattern that could be limiting what God wants to do in you. Pray and ask whether God is inviting you into something new in that area.

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 3: **Practice St. Augustine's Principle.** Think of a person in your life with whom you disagree on a non-essential matter of faith or practice. This week, make a deliberate choice to extend liberty and charity toward that person. Be ready to share what that looked like with the group.

– Luke 5:33-39 –



HANDS

✚ Choose ONE of the following action steps:

✚ Option 4: **Reflect on the Newness of Christ**. Read John chapter 2, the wedding at Cana, alongside Luke 5:33 through 39 this week. Journal about what these two passages together say to you about the kind of newness Jesus brings. What does it look like to trust that Jesus' new thing in your life is better than what came before?

– Luke 5:33-39 –





FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL



Day 1: The Bridegroom Has Come

Reading: Luke 5:33-35

 **Devotional:** There is a time for everything, and discernment is the mark of a spiritually mature believer. Jesus did not dismiss fasting as worthless. He simply declared that his presence changed the season. The Messiah had arrived, and that arrival demanded celebration. Too often, believers carry unnecessary spiritual heaviness into seasons God has marked for joy. Ask yourself today whether you are grieving in a season God has called you to celebrate. The bridegroom is not absent. He is risen, he is present through his Spirit, and he invites you into the joy of his nearness. Do not fast at the wedding feast.

– Luke 5:33-39 –



Day 2: New Seasons, New Practices

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

✚ **Devotional:** Wisdom is not knowing what to do. Wisdom is knowing when to do it. The Pharisees were not wrong to fast. They were wrong about the season. God calls his people to different postures at different times, and rigidly clinging to one spiritual practice regardless of what God is doing in the moment reveals a heart more committed to routine than to relationship. Spiritual discernment requires listening, not just performing. Today, pause and ask God what season you are in. Is he calling you to press in through fasting and prayer? Or is he inviting you to rest and receive his joy? Trust him to tell you the difference.

– Luke 5:33-39 –



Day 3: The Incompatibility of Old and New

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17

✚ Devotional: Jesus used the image of a new patch sewn onto an old garment to illustrate a fundamental spiritual reality. The new covenant cannot be forced into the structures of the old. When God does a new thing in a person's life, the old frameworks will not hold it. Many believers experience genuine transformation but then attempt to pour that new life back into old habits, old mindsets, and old relational patterns. The new wine bursts those old skins every time. Surrender the old containers today. Allow God to give you new ways of thinking, new postures of the heart, and new practices that can actually contain what he is doing in you.

– Luke 5:33-39 –



Day 4: The New Wine of the Kingdom

Reading: John 2:1-11

 **Devotional:** At Cana, the conventional wisdom was that the best wine always comes first. Jesus overturned that assumption entirely. What he produced was fresher, richer, and superior to everything that had come before it. This is the nature of everything Jesus touches. The new covenant he inaugurated in his blood is not a lesser thing than what preceded it. It is the fulfillment and the surpassing of it. Whatever God is doing in your life right now may feel unfamiliar or even disorienting. But if Jesus is the one producing it, trust that it will be better than anything that came before. His new wine never disappoints.

– Luke 5:33-39 –



Day 5: Unity, Liberty, and Charity

Reading: Romans 15:5-7

 **Devotional:** The controversy in Luke 5 was not ultimately about fasting. It was about the human tendency to use religious practice as a measuring stick for others. The Pharisees had reduced faithfulness to observable performance, and they measured Jesus against their own standard. Augustine's principle speaks directly to this danger: in essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity. The church fractures most often not over the essentials of the faith but over preferences and traditions elevated to the level of doctrine. Today, examine whether you are extending to others the same grace Christ has extended to you. That is where transformation begins.

– Luke 5:33-39 –



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: “Jesus, you came to do a new thing. May we not allow ourselves to become Pharisees and rule keepers that want to force people into old paradigms, perspectives, and practices. Jesus, you came to give us new perspectives, postures, and practices. So God, show us how to appreciate the old things, while at the same time allowing them to pass away, so that all things can become new, in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES

