

**SERIES: INCREASING YOUR CAPACITY FOR GOD
SERMON: NEW CLOTH AND NEW WINE
2-4-24**

OPENER:

Matthew 9:14-17 (NLT) One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, “Why don’t your disciples fast like we do and the Pharisees do?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

¹⁶ “Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved.”

Let’s look at the context of this scripture -the conversation.....

The disciples of John the Baptist came and were asking why Jesus’ disciples didn’t fast.

Jesus answered by saying.... *Vs. 15 “Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom. Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them and they will fast.”*

When Jesus said “Groom” he was talking about himself.

When He said “taken away” he was talking about when he would return to heaven.

The disciples of John the Baptist came and were critical about the Lord’s disciples, because they weren’t fasting. Jesus response to their question was not that fasting was wrong, just that it wasn’t time for his disciples to fast, because he was them. So, we see that the dialogue here is about comparing the Lord’s disciples to the disciples of John the Baptist and to the Pharisees.

**VERY IMPORTANT THING!
THE LORD’S RESPONSE SHOULD TELL US THAT FASTING SHOULD BE
FIRST AND PRIMARILY ABOUT OUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS - ABOUT DEEPENING**

AND DRAWING CLOSER TO HIM.

John's disciples and the Pharisees had not recognized and accepted Jesus as the Messiah. They did not have a relationship with him as the Bride Groom. In fact, John's disciples and the Pharisees were still fasting and praying according to Jewish custom at that time and part of that fasting and prayer was for deliverance and for the coming of the Messiah.

LET'S GO BACK AND TALK ABOUT JOHN THE BAPTIST:

Now, John had baptized Jesus and proclaimed him to be the Messiah. We remember his words at the Lord's baptism...

Let's read it.....

John 1: 29-34 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.' ³¹ I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel."

³² Then John testified, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. ³³ I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God."

But, after this John was arrested and imprisoned by King Herod after John condemned the king's marriage to his wife, Herodias, as illegal, because she had previously been married to his own brother,. Herod initially resisted killing John, because of his status as a holy man. But after his stepdaughter danced for him at his birthday party, he offered to give her anything she desired. Prompted by her mother, who resented John's judgment of her marriage, Herodias' daughter requested the head of John the Baptist on a platter.

From prison he sent a message asking if Jesus was the one.....

Luke 7:18-23 The disciples of John the Baptist told John about everything Jesus was doing. So John called for two of his disciples, ¹⁹ and he sent them to the Lord to ask him, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?"

²⁰ John's two disciples found Jesus and said to him, "John the Baptist sent us to ask, 'Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?' "

²¹ At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind.

²² Then he told John's disciples, "Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor." ²³ And he added, "God blesses those who do not turn away because of me."

How many of you know that it is easy to lose faith in what the Lord has spoken or we doubt the promises of God when circumstances are contrary or we become discouraged with hardship?

AFTER THIS, JESUS GOES INTO THE TWO PARABLES.....

SO, WHAT WAS JESUS TRYING TO TEACH THEM BY THE PARABLE OF THE NEW PATCH AND THE NEW WINE?

TWO THINGS BOTH PARABLES HAVE IN COMMON:

1) BOTH OF THESE PARABLES REFERENCE SOMETHING "NEW" BEING "ATTACHED TO" OR BEING "PUT IN" SOMETHING OLD

2) BOTH OF THESE PARABLES REFERENCE SOMETHING THAT IS "CHANGING" BEING "ATTACHED TO" OR BEING "PUT IN" SOMETHING THAT DEFIES CHANGE.

Jesus was saying that He was bringing a new way. That He was the new. That until they had a change of heart and believed upon him as the Messiah, as their Lord, their old ways could not contain or hold the new life that he had!

THE PARABLE OF THE NEW PATCH ON OLD CLOTH:

Matthew 9:16 "Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.

(Explain:) New cloth shrinks it doesn't stay the same, it changes, so to try to attached something new to an old piece of cloth to repair or restore it, doesn't work. In fact, it will rip away and cause more damage than there was before.

Since Jesus is referencing the Pharisees here, let's look at another time that he spoke to them.....

Matthew 23:27-28 (NLT) What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs— beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. ²⁸ Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Jesus was saying that from the outside the Pharisees looked righteous. They looked righteous because they did righteous deeds and obeyed the law, but inside their hearts were impure and their motives for obeying the law was not because of their love for the Lord. It was so they could look good before others. They had whitewashed themselves on the outside to make themselves righteous, but they were unrighteous and dead on the inside.

**WHAT JESUS WAS SAYING HERE IS THAT YOU CAN'T JUST
DO GOOD THINGS ON THE OUTSIDE AND EXPECT TO
BE GOOD ON THE INSIDE.**

**TRYING TO ATTACH THE NEW LIFE OF CHRIST TO YOUR
OLD SELF DOESN'T WORK.
YOU CAN'T ATTACH NEW TO THE OLD.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

For us to be made righteous we must be a new creation in Jesus, with our old self being replaced with our new self.

**JESUS WAS SAYING FOR US TO EMBRACE THE NEW LIFE THAT HE
BRINGS WE MUST BE MADE NEW THROUGH AND THROUGH.**

Here is another conversation with a Pharisee.....Nicodemus....

John 3:3 "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

2 Corinthian 3:1-3 (NIV) Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³ You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

WE DON'T CARRY THE LAW ON THE OUTSIDE - BECAUSE THE LAW IS WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS.

THE PARABLE OF NEW WINE IN OLD WINE SKINS:

Matthew 9: 17 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved."

Explain:

New wine, through its process of fermentation, will stretch whatever container it is put in. That is why it has to be put in something that is new and something that is organic or fleshy. You can't put it in plastic it will bust. Wine has to be stored in a container that can grow with it.

JESUS WAS SAYING THAT THE NEW LIFE OF HIS SPIRIT WOULD DWELL WITHIN THEM, BUT FOR THEM TO CONTAIN IT THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE NEW THEMSELVES.

TO RECEIVE THE NEW WINE THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE NEW VESSELS THEMSELVES.

IF WE AREN'T WILLING TO BE STRETCHED THEN WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTAIN WHAT GOD HAS TO GIVE US.

**WE MUST BE WILLING TO CHANGE AND GROW.
BE PLIABLE IN THE HANDS OF GOD.**

If you are going to commit the Spirit of God within you then you must commit to constant growth and change. You must be willing to be stretched. You must be willing to expand and enlarge yourself for the growth that the Holy Spirit wants to do in side of you.

Side Note:

Wine will ferment forever. In fact that is why people like aged wine because it has fermented longer and has a better taste.

This means that once the Holy Spirit inside of you begins to stretch you, then it never stops stretching or expanding you.

> If you have love now that is nothing into comparison of the boundless love that God wants you to grow into.

> If you have zeal now that is nothing compared to there zealousness that God wants you to grow into.

> If you have boldness now it is nothing compared to the fearlessness that Christ has for you to walk in.

> If you have peace now that is nothing compared to the overwhelming peace He wants to grow in you.

> If you have revelation now, it is nothing compared to the greater revelation that He wants to impart to you.

INSTRUCTION:

1. ALLOW THE YOUR FAITH TO BE TESTED AND TRIED AND STRETCHED SO THAT IT CAN GROW

Example:

Like Abraham who left what was familiar and held onto the promises of God. To claim the promises of God in your life, sometimes it requires that you leave your place of comfort and step out in faith.

God was stretching Abraham's faith and he was changing and developing his character. Abraham felt pressure, uncertainty, fear of the unknown. All of that was part of the stretching. But God needed Abraham's faith to grow so he could become who he needed to be and possess what God had for him. Not only for himself but for future generations.

If you want more Be willing to go where most are not willing to go. Be willing to go where you have not been before. Get out of your comfort zone. Move past the boundary in your heart and mind. Push past the boundaries in your own life of only going so far.

Side Note:

I watch people burst and spill out the good gift of God's Spirit in their. The Holy Spirit puts pressure on their hearts to push them on them to grow, but it is in that stress that is felt and the pressure and sometimes the pain or sacrifice from being stretched that we refuse to grow and we burst and we lose the gift of God to us. I watch it spill out on the floor.

2. PUT YOUR FOCUS ON THE INSIDE

We can do good things out of a bad heart.

> Concentrate on your relationship with Christ. Don't just do good works and deeds without pursuing a relationship with the Lord. A relationship requires time, conversation, prayer and transparency.

> Don't just do good things, submit your will, your motives and your desires to the Lord.

>Concentrate on the fruit of God's Spirit growing from the inside-out.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Another response to the Pharisees.....

Matthew 12:33-35 A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. ³⁴ You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. ³⁵ A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.