

Key Scriptures

- **Mark 2:13-17** – Jesus calls Levi the tax collector; eats with tax collectors and sinners; “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”
- **Mark 2:18-22** – Question about fasting; bridegroom metaphor; unshrunk cloth on old garment; new wine into new wineskins.
- **Romans 8:1-2** – “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free...”
- **Galatians 5:1** – “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.”

Main Points

- Jesus deliberately invites a despised tax collector (Levi/Matthew)—a social “leper”—to follow Him and then joins a feast with other tax collectors and sinners.
- The Pharisees are scandalized; their “gospel of do and don’t” demanded separation, but Jesus goes to the sick who know they need a physician.
- Fasting is inappropriate while the bridegroom is present; when the King and His kingdom arrive, it is time for celebration, not mourning.
- New wine (the presence and power of Christ) cannot be poured into old wineskins (old structures, traditions, or an unchanged life). The old will burst and both will be lost.
- Receiving Christ is not an add-on or seasoning. The old is gone; the new has come. It reshapes relationships, calendar, finances, family, community, and witness.
- The church must leave the “holy bubble / periscope” mentality and engage people who live as if God does not exist, so they can encounter the real Jesus.

Quotable Quotes

- **John Stott (quoted by Pastor Missy):** “Nothing hinders evangelism more than the widespread loss of confidence in the truth, the relevance, and the power of the gospel.”
- **On receiving Christ:** “You cannot receive Christ into your life without being made new yourself. He’s not an add-on. He’s not a seasoning... The old is gone. The new has come. It touches everything.”
- **Closing charge:** “Jesus is the new wine... and you who are like new wineskin, don’t trade it in for the old wine skin.”

Questions for Further Thought

1. Where might you still be trying to pour the new wine of Christ into an “old wineskin” area of your life (habits, relationships, priorities, or identity)?

2. How does Jesus' willingness to eat with tax collectors and sinners challenge the way you (or your church) engage people outside the faith?
3. What would it look like this week to live as a new wineskin—fully available for the new wine of Christ to expand and transform you?