

Action from the New Wineskin

Mark 2:18-28 NIV *VHS Video Home System – 1976; VCR Video Cassette Recorder – now there is something we have called a “Cloud VCR” – it has unlimited capacity and I don’t have to understand how it works to use it! Today we want to learn how to act from the New Wineskin – it produces the best version of you and brings heaven’s beauty and power into this world.

- I. Jesus initiated a New Covenant.
 - a. Jesus on this earth was different than the Old Covenant – it was a unique time, but when He leaves there will be a new wineskin and the old wineskin won’t work. It is as obsolete as the VHS. (Hebrews 8:13)
 - b. The old wineskin, like the Old Covenant, was brittle and unyielding – new wine would ferment and explode it because it had no give in it.
 - i. Both covenants are from God and both are holy, but because the first could not receive new wine it had no power to make those under it holy.
 - ii. 2Corinthians 3:5-6 NIV “He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” *3,000 people were killed at the giving of the law written on stone; 3,000 people were saved at the giving of the Spirit written on human hearts.
 - iii. The Old Covenant, like the VHS, is part of our history but is now obsolete. It happened, it had a purpose, but now we’re living in a New Covenant and it won’t work to combine the two.
 - c. The New Covenant allows us to be filled with new wine and be transformed from glory to ever increasing glory. 2Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate^[a] the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” The Old Covenant was given with glory that faded over time – it was from God but because there was no new wine it always faded.
- II. The call to intimacy.
 - a. The Old Covenant gave people security from a lifestyle based on laws that if followed, restrained darkness. The New Covenant gives people an internal relationship that if walked in, defeats darkness.
 - b. The Founder of creation, Israel, and the law is revealed clearly in the New Covenant as a loving Father who is drawing all people to Christ, and adopting those who receive Him He adopts as His very own sons and daughters. Jesus came to bring us to the Father for the Father Himself loves us!!!

- c. The promised Messiah of the Old Covenant is revealed as a proposing Bridegroom in the New Covenant.
 - i. Promises are both direct and lived out through sacrifices to cover over sin. He is the Lamb of God who removes sin, so He can make us His partners for all eternity.
 - ii. He finds us beautiful, even in our darkness. He lays His life down to win us back from where sin has taken us. Whereas there are many children of God, we are only the bride together. We're not just better together, we're only complete together. We can only release the fullness of His beauty and His power when we're together.
 - iii. The wineskin He has won for us is flexible. He makes the wineskin itself holy by His righteousness and allows for our brokenness by His grace. Romans 5:17 NIV "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!"
- d. The Spirit who was on some to restrain darkness in the Old Covenant, now lives in us and through us to bring heaven to earth. *Ephesians 5:18 NIV "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit," *We are to be filled not as a one-time experience or a weekend experience, but as a way of life and we will be filled with Him for all eternity.

III. Acting from the new wineskin.

- a. Not for favor, from favor. They were seeking God for His favor, we seek God from His favor. *Jesus performed perfectly and imputed His performance to you and I. *Not allowance, Christmas.
- b. Not for access, from access. *Matthew 11:12 NIV "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence,^[a] and violent people have been raiding it." *The adjoining hotel rooms – I was pounding on a door that I thought was heaven – it was my door and the key was in my hand – the humble faith of a child.
- c. Not for rest, from rest. *Sabbath was the center of Israel – it is what defined it – the seventh day was sanctified and blessed – when they put God first by honoring their Sabbaths all went well. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.
 - i. It's a gift for our well-being - It is how we were made and if we refuse to rest we will burn out spiritually, mentally, and physically. It takes faith to rest!
 - ii. It's a gift as a ceremonial law that foreshadowed salvation. (Colossians 2:16-17 "Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New

Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”)
*They rested on a day by putting God first; we rest in a Person by making God the center of everything. Cease from our own works, and receive God’s gift of salvation.

- iii. Hebrews 4:9-11 NIV “There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰ for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works,^[a] just as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.” *The titanium embassy – the ease of heaven.