

The Parables of Jesus

in the Gospel of Luke (11)

Luke 5:27-39

DISCUSS

What is your favorite piece of clothing?

What is your favorite drink?

DISCOVER

Focus: The Lord is our new garment and new wine. In verse 37, the Lord compared Himself as the new wine, full of life and vigor. If we put this new wine back into the old wineskin, this would burst the old wineskin. The old wineskin signifies religious practices. We need to enjoy such fresh Christ and bring our enjoyment to the church life, which is signified by the new wineskin.

I. Read through Luke 5:27-39.

Luke 5:27 And after these things He went out and beheld a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and He said to him, Follow Me.

Luke 5:28 And leaving all, he rose up and followed Him.

Luke 5:29 And Levi gave a great reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining at table with them.

Luke 5:30 And the Pharisees and their scribes murmured at His disciples, saying, Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?

Luke 5:31 And Jesus answered and said to them, Those who are healthy have no need of a physician, but those who are ill;

Luke 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 5:33 And they said to Him, The disciples of John fast often and make petitions, likewise also those of the Pharisees, but Yours eat and drink.

Luke 5:34 And Jesus said to them, You cannot make the sons of the bridechamber fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you?

Luke 5:35 But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days.

Luke 5:36 And He also spoke a parable to them: No one tears a patch from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise, he will tear the new garment, and also the patch from the new will not match the old.

Luke 5:37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the new wine will burst the wineskins, and it will be poured out and the wineskins will be ruined;

Luke 5:38 But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.

Luke 5:39 And no one who has drunk the old desires the new, for he says, The old is better.

A. What problem did the Pharisees have with the Lord Jesus? What were the Lord and His disciples doing and what were the Pharisees and John's disciples doing?

B. What new things did the Lord want to be to His people? What old things did the Lord want to replace?

DEEPER

DIVE

I. Read the following excerpt:

New Garment

The Lord is the finished garment that we might put on as our righteousness to be justified before God.

The old garment in verse 36 signifies man's good behavior, good deeds, and religious practices by his old natural life. The Lord Jesus was very wise. In verse 36 He did not say, "You disciples of John must realize that your garments are torn and full of holes. By fasting you are actually cutting a piece of unshrunk cloth and using it to patch the holes in your garments." Instead of saying this directly, the Lord Jesus indicated to the disciples of John that they did not have a perfect garment. He indicated that their garments had holes and that by fasting they were trying to patch the holes.

What should we do with our old and "hole-y" garments? What should we do with Christ as our new garment?

New Wine and New Wineskins

All religions are old wineskins. New wine put into old wineskins bursts the wineskins by its fermenting power. To put new wine into old wineskins is to put Christ as the exciting life into any kind of religion.

We see that the new wineskin is the church life. The church is actually the enlargement of Christ. The individual Christ is our wine within us. When this individual Christ is enlarged into a corporate Christ, that is the church. This corporate Christ is the wineskin, the container, to contain the individual Christ as our wine. Never consider the church a religion; the church is a corporate entity full of Christ, because the church is Christ enlarged.

We must also realize that the wineskin is not only the container of the wine, but also the means for us to drink the wine. Many of us can testify that whenever we come into a church meeting, we discover that it is truly the place where we can drink Christ. It is here that we drink the Lord as never before. The church life is not merely a container, but a vessel from which we may drink. We need Christ as the new garment, we need Christ as the new wine, and we also need Christ in a corporate way as the new wineskin. We need the church life. We do not care for religion, forms, or rituals. We care only for Christ in you and Christ in me. This is the new wineskin.

I. Share any experience(s) of coming together with other Christians. and getting filled with the new wine.

II. From your experience, what is the biggest reason you think Christians get burnt-out?

From these parables, how can we live the Christian life today?

DISCIPLE

Memorize Luke 5:34 and emphasize the word

“WITH”

*“And Jesus said to them, You cannot make the sons of the bridechamber fast while the bridegroom is **with** them, can you?”*