

Matthew 9:14-26

“The King Restores Life”

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Jesus came to give us life and life more abundant [John 10:10]. Yet many of us don't feel that we are experiencing an abundant life. Would you like to know how to have an abundant life in Christ?

Discussion Qs

1. What are some ways that believers (or a church) can become “old wineskins” such that they are inflexible and unable to change?
2. How can believers (or a church) remain new wineskins?
3. What are some of the spiritual conditions that we need to be restored from that are obstacles to abundant life in Christ?
4. Describe a time when your life in Christ was abundant.

Jesus is our king in the career realm: When Jesus is king in the career realm people at your work or school know that you are a follower of Jesus.

Intro. John 10:10 Jesus came to give us life and life more abundant. Yet many of us don't feel that we are experiencing abundant life. Would you like to know how to?

Subject: Life in Christ

Object: Experience abundant life in Christ

Context: The healing of the paralyzed man, and invitation to Matthew and other notorious sinners to receive Christ's forgiveness [9:1-13]

I. Jesus' ministry is a new work [14-17]

A. Jesus' presence produces joy [14-15] Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?”

¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. John's disciples question Jesus about fasting [14]. The implication being: really spiritual people shouldn't be joyous. Jesus responds that friends of the groom don't mourn during the 7-day wedding feast.

1. Jesus followers rejoice

a. There will be reason to mourn and grieve in a believer's life, but generally joy

2. Jesus followers fast: Jesus presumes we will fast for spiritual growth [Mt. 6:16]

a. Learn to say “no” to the flesh and say “yes” to God, to experience abundant life

i. fasting can be much broader than abstaining from food: cf. e.g. media

B. Jesus' New Covenant of grace is reason to rejoice [16-17] No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. ¹⁷ Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

1. Jesus' NT is based on grace, and faith in what Christ has done: not Jesus + law, nor an improvement to the Mosaic law, but a NEW COVENANT!

a. Jesus' ministry is not simply Judaism improved. *The NT is a new work of God*

2. Jesus' followers are receptive to changes He provides: don't use un-shrunk cloth as a patch or it will rip the cloth [16]. Don't put new wine in old wine skins or it will break the inflexible skin as the fermenting juice expands. Old skins are fine for old.

a. New skins are flexible (not rigid) & able to stand pressure.

C. Jesus wants to do a new work in each of His followers and the local church

How can believers (or a church) remain new wineskins? Flexible & able to change

1. Being a new wineskin is a key to an abundant life.

II. Jesus brings new life [18-26]

A. Jesus gives hope [18] While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.”

1. Religion is powerless to give life: A ruler: an elder in the synagogue, the center of religious life among Jews. Mark tells us his name was Jairus [Mk.5:22], and Luke tells us it was his only daughter and she was twelve years old [Lu. 8:42]. The religious community would scorn him for coming to Christ but he was desperate. His daughter had just died and Jesus was his only hope. **Worshiped Him:** humility, bowing down before Jesus.

a. Jesus offers hope of life, abundant life, and eternal life

Jesus and His disciples agree to go [19] **So Jesus arose and followed him, and so *did* His disciples.**

i. Imagine Jairus' sense of hope and anticipation. Hope for the hopeless.

ii. When you believe that Jesus can bring life you expect great things

B. Jesus gives restoration [20-22]

And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. ²¹ For she said to herself, “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.”

1. Jesus can restore chronic conditions An anonymous woman with a **flow of blood** (unusual menstrual flow) for **12 years**. She suffered for 12 years, while Jairus experienced joy with his daughter. She was unable to worship with others because her condition made her ceremonially unclean [Lev. 15:25]. Per Dr. Luke, medical science was unable to restore her [Lu. 8:43]. The woman approached **from behind** likely due to apprehension. She **touched the hem of His garment** the blue thread at the corner of the robe was a symbol of God's authority [Num. 15:38]. She anticipates Jesus can restore a chronic condition.

a. *She believes that if she reaches out to Jesus she will be renewed*

i. Sometimes when you suffer a chronic condition whether it is physical, emotional, or spiritual you learn to adopt as best you can, and stop thinking that renewal is possible in this life or the life to come.

What are some of the spiritual conditions that we need to be restored from that are obstacles to abundant life in Christ?

2. Jesus affirms that faith in Him is the basis of renewal [22] But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that hour.

a. **Be of good cheer, daughter:** comforting words, no need to fear, she was now a daughter of the king. Cf. Jairus’ daughter simply the daughter of an elder ...

b. Whether your last decade has been generally difficult or easy, we are all likely to need renewal.

C Jesus gives life [23-26] When Jesus came into the ruler’s house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, ²⁴ He said to them, “Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him. ²⁵ But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. ²⁶ And the report of this went out into all that land.

1. Jesus is the only one who gives true life

a. Professional mourners were gathered. Rabbis taught that even the poorest in Israel should have at least 2 **flutes** and one mourner. Jairus as a leader has several gathered - **noisy crowd wailing [23]**. Jesus knows that He will restore her life but the crowd did not believe [24]. Jesus removed the crowd and the touched her hand. Per Mark he spoke to her, *talitha cumi* Aramaic – “Little girl arise” [Mk. 5:41]

2. Jesus’ ability to give life became famous in all the land [26]

3. Why might Jesus have removed the crowd that did not believe [25]? Only Peter, James, and John were present with Jesus [Mk.5:37]. It seems that Jesus delights to do amazing things among those who believe.

a. The way to experience an abundant life in Christ is to believe in Him

i. Abundant life is directly proportional to faith in Christ. More is more!

A. Ways that believers can become “old wineskins” such that they are inflexible and unable to change?

1. Rigid adherence to tradition: e.g. Sabbath observance, ritual purification

2. Dependence upon heritage: e.g. We have Abraham as our father [Mt.3]

3. Deny power of Jesus [Mt. 9:34]

4. Emphasis on behavior more than attitude [Lu. 1:39-44]

5. Social separation from sinners (unbelievers) [Lu.15:1-2]

6. Desire for community recognition [Jn. 11:46-50]. Those who were most successful in a prior paradigm are threatened by the new.

B. How can believers remain new wineskins?

1. Distinguish ritual and tradition from God.

2. Be gracious re God moving through others to minister to different needs.

3. Make God’s word the standard.

4. Be seeking where God desires to produce change

5. Encourage ideas and change.

6. Determine not to quench the Spirit, and relentlessly resist those who do.