
Session 6 | Parable of the New Covenant | Matthew 9:14-17

Memory Verse:

**"God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble."**

Psalms 46:1 / ESV

Session 6 | Opening Discussion:



1. Why did Jesus often clash with the Pharisees over their religious traditions?
2. What does the word "covenant" mean in the Bible, and how can the New Covenant be described?

Matthew 9:14-17, *Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" 15 Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. 16 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17 Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."*

What is the New Covenant:

The New Covenant is God's promise to forgive sins and restore fellowship through the completed work of Christ on the cross, who is the sole mediator of this New Covenant.

Main Point of this Parable: Jesus teaches that He is establishing a new covenant and manner of relating to God, rather than merely adding to existing religious practices.

Analogies:

Fasting (14 / 15)

Bridegroom (15)

New Cloth on Old Garment (16)

New Wine in Old Wineskins (17)

Principles:

- 1. Fasting and the New Covenant focus on authentic behavior. 14**
- 2. Fasting and the New Covenant focus on accurate beliefs. 15**
- 3. Jesus' teachings supersede religious traditions 16**
- 4. Jesus' teachings are transformative. 17**



Discussion Questions:



1. Why did John's disciples ask Jesus about fasting??
2. What did Jesus mean by comparing himself to a bridegroom? And what was his reasoning mentioning wineskins in this parable?

Praise and Prayer Requests: