

Parables of Jesus Week 4

New Cloth on an Old Coat

New Wine in Old Wineskins

Matthew 9:16, 17; Mark 2:21, 22; Luke 5:36-38

NIV Luke 5:36-38. “No one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment; and the patch from the new will not match the old. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, ‘The old is better.’”

As we examine the setting of these parables, we see that Jesus had just been talking to the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. They had questioned him as to why he chose to eat and drink with sinners and why Jesus’ disciples did not keep the Old Testament days of fasting. Jesus’ reply was a question. “Can you make the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; in those days they will fast.”

The Pharisees did not understand Jesus was referring to his disciples as his guests and that he, the bridegroom, would be taken bodily from them by his death, burial, and resurrection. They mourned his death until he appeared to them and gave reassurance. He instructed them to go to Jerusalem and wait for the promised Holy Spirit. They obeyed and most likely spent much time in prayer and fasting while waiting. The Holy Spirit fell on the day of Pentecost upon all who believed, ushering in a new covenant of grace. The Old Testament and the Law were finished. The work of Calvary was done. The New Testament began. Now the laws of God were written on the fleshly tables of the hearts of men. Now believers were born again of the water and of the Spirit, becoming a new creation in Christ Jesus.

Jesus was explaining to the Pharisees and to his disciples, that the new way of grace could not be incorporated into the old system of the Law. Likewise the new wine of the Holy Spirit must be poured into new vessels, men and women who are born again and become a new creation in Christ Jesus. Any attempt to mix the legalism of the law with the life of the spirit will not fit. We cannot borrow anything from the ceremonial laws and expect them to fit into the gospel of Jesus Christ. An example is the Jewish believers who wanted to bring the law of circumcision into the New Testament church.

Jesus referred to those saying the “old is better” as people reluctant to change from their traditional religious ways and accept the gospel and spiritual re-birth through Jesus.

Not by the works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. Titus 3:5

The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost

We must be born again, becoming a new creature in Christ Jesus. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, came to Jesus by night, inquiring about Jesus’ teachings. Jesus declared to him, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again, of water and of the Spirit.” John 3

See also Acts 2:38, 39; 8:12; 10:44-46; 19:6; 22:16. Ephesians 2:17