

“Are We at a Wedding or at a Funeral?”

Luke 5:33-39

Feb. 20, 2022

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- So the party is going on at Matthew's house.
- There was eating and drinking, laughter and conversation.
- Jesus and the disciples step outside and are questioned by the "killjoys" (Scribes and Pharisees). Negative & critical.
- Last time they called into question who Jesus and disciples affiliate with.
- This time it's not who they are with but what they are doing.
- Pharisees fasted on Mondays and Thursdays and offered prayers at 12 PM, 3 PM, and 6 PM. None of which was required by the Law.
- 1 required fast in O.T. – Day of Atonement. Mourning for sin.

Lev 16:29-32

29 "This shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall **humble** your souls and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you; you will be clean from all your sins before the Lord.

30 For it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; it is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, that you may **humble** your souls; it is a permanent statute.

"humble" - אָנַח - anah – to afflict, to chasten self, includes fasting.

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- There were other fasts but they were all voluntary.
- Note that the disciples of John are included. Why are they paired with the Pharisees?
- The Pharisees reasoned that if fasting 1 day made one look more spiritual, then why not make it a required practice to do it more frequently.
- That is how it became ritualistic legalism and a show of the flesh.
- So Jesus in Matt. 6 says this . . .

Prayer

Matt 6:5-6

5 "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Fasting

Matt 6:16-18

16 "Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

17 "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face

18 so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

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• So the Pharisees and Scribes want to show how unspiritual Jesus and the disciples were.

• "They are breaking the Law." "How can you allow this to happen?"

• The Pharisees think they have trapped Jesus again.

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• Jesus answers with 4 illustrations:

1st illustration – Feasting and Fasting.

*You don't fast at a wedding.

- It is not a time of mourning, but a time of feasting.
- You are celebrating with the bridegroom who is present with you.



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- It is not a time of mourning, but a time of feasting.
- You are celebrating with the bridegroom who is present with you..
- There were rabbis who would forbid anyone to fast at a wedding.
- Why? Because it was a time of joy, not sadness.
- Just imagine a wedding you would go to and everyone says they are fasting and refuses all food. They want to mourn instead.
- Try to make the attendants follow those rules.
- There are people who are negative and critical, who always want to throw cold water on every situation. They think they are being spiritual. It is easier to criticize than to encourage.
- So we have "gill pickle" Christians. They twist Paul's words in Philipians into, "Criticize and again I say criticize", or "mourn and again I say mourn." All negative. That's Pharisicalism.

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- Here is the first reference in Luke to the death of Christ – "the bridegroom is taken away."
- When that happens, then it will be time to mourn.
- The point is, now the bridegroom is here so no fasting.
- We fast today, but it is voluntary and not as a legalistic practice to be followed to show we are spiritual. Rather we do it out of necessity.

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- **2nd Illustration** – New patch on an old garment.

• This will not work for 2 reasons:

1. You ruin the new garment. Left a hole.
2. It will not match the old garment. Totally different design. New needs to stay with the new and old with the old.



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Application:

1. Jesus did not come to patch-up Pharisaicalism.
2. To require Jesus and his disciples to fast was as ludicrous as sewing a piece of new cloth on an old garment
3. Pharisaicalism, like an old garment that needs to be fixed but can't be, needs to be tossed. We are not talking about O.T. Judaism but what the Pharisees had done to it by perverting, twisting and adding to it.
4. What Jesus taught is a different "design" altogether.
5. The gospel is unique. You cannot patch it into any other religion or works-righteousness system.

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6. The 2 do not mix:

Works and Grace (Rom. 11:6)

6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Flesh and Spirit. (Gal. 5:17)

17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another,

The World and Christ. (1 Jn. 2:15)

15 If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

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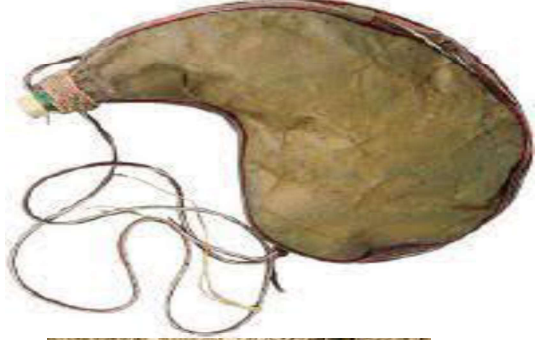
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- **3rd Illustration** – New wine in old wineskins.
- Wineskins were made from goat or sheepskins.
- New wine and old wineskins don't mix. Why not?
- Let's look and see . . .

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How is new wine made?

1. The skins of grapes already have yeast growing on them, so when the grapes are crushed, the juice begins fermenting on its own.
2. Yeast takes the natural sugars in the grape juice and produces alcohol and carbon dioxide.
3. The newly squeezed grape juice would be placed into wineskins, or leather bags, to continue to ferment.
4. The release of carbon dioxide during the fermenting process causes the wineskin to expand.
5. New wineskins are flexible and able to stretch as the pressure of the carbon dioxide grows.
6. An old wineskin has already been stretched out.
7. If you put new wine into an old wineskin, it isn't going to be able to stretch, and when the carbon dioxide begins to build up while the wine is fermenting, the wineskin will burst.



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1. The truth that Jesus was teaching just doesn't fit in Pharisaicalism.
2. In Pharisaicalism, your mind is rigid, narrow, inflexible. It had accumulated years of tradition.
3. Jesus came to "blow the mind" of the Pharisee.
4. His teaching was way beyond the hardened mind of the Pharisee.
5. When the gospel "expands" in the world, the new wineskins will take it everywhere.
6. The gospel cannot be put in any self-righteous system.

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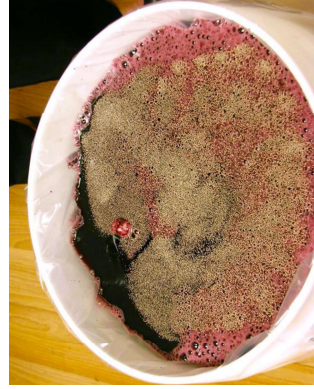
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- **4th Illustration** – old wine and new wine.

OLD

Pharisaicalism



NEW

Gospel Of Jesus Christ



39 "And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good enough.'"

- **4th Illustration** – old wine and the new wine.
- The Pharisees were "drunk" or stuck on the old wine and wanted nothing of the new.
- They loved their ritualistic, legalistic traditions.
- There was power and prestige in them.
- Jesus says, "You have been drinking that old wine of Pharisaicalism so long, you have absolutely no interest in the gospel."
- They had put a lot into it – Mishnah, Talmud.
- It is difficult to get people out of religions they have been in for a long time.
- They do not know how good the new wine can be.

John 2:9-10

9 When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom,
10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now."

Summary

- Pharisaicalism vs. the truth that Jesus taught, were completely incompatible with each other and could never, ever be mixed. Trying to do so is as ridiculous as -
 - Mourning at a wedding.
 - Trying to patch something old with something new.
 - Trying to make a container that is rigid and hard, hold an explosion.
 - Trying to make someone leave their traditions for a new life.
- Where are you?
 - Are there traits of Pharisaicalism in your life?
 - Are you stuck in old religious traditions?
 - Do you understand the difference between what Jesus taught about believing in grace, living by the Spirit, and not following the world, and what the Pharisees believed about works-righteousness, living by the flesh, and following man-made rules and regulations?