

THE PARABLE OF THE NEW WINE AND OLD WINESKINS

Text: Matthew 9:14-17
Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39

Key Word: Tradition

Key Thought: No One Should Want to Return to the Harsh and Bitter Laws of the Old Testament

We all know that Jesus loved to speak in parables because He could explain difficult and controversial truths in a way that those that needed to would understand what He was saying. He also made it a point to use twin parables to reveal different aspects of His main thoughts.

This was the case in the Parable of the Lost Coin and Lost Sheep as well as the Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price. These parables would reiterate what He had said but also compliment His main thought(s).

In our last Parable Jesus didn't want us to destroy the older ritual. It served its purpose and was now able to be placed to the side. The new practices of the church had been seen as something that would be distinct from the older practises. **Both were needed in their own time but both had to stand on their own just like an older garment and new piece of cloth.**

It would never be profitable for Christianity to serve under the legalism of the Old Testament Law which the Pharisees lived by and were attempting to usher into the new standards of the Early Church. **It would have been disastrous to the Church if Jesus had not addressed this question properly.**

I like the way the [Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary](#) explains this passage:

"Like old wineskins, the Pharisees and indeed the entire religious system of Judaism had become too rigid to accept Jesus. They could not contain him or his message in their traditions or rules. Their understanding of faithfulness to the law had become unsuitable for the fresh, dynamic power of Christ's message."

Have you ever owned an older car that has served you well but was beginning to get a little too high of mileage? Perhaps along with it has come the need to replace a number of parts. There comes a time when it has fully served its purpose but you must upgrade or you'll be servicing your car more than it will be serving you. It's quite likely that your new vehicle will have newer options that make your driving more of a pleasure. Both of them would be able to get you from Point "A" to Point "B" but they handle differently and I'm sure you noticed the difference in the ride and plenty of new options.

What Is So Different Between God's Ways of Dealing with Mankind since the New Testament Has Been Introduced to the Church?

I. THE METHOD WAS DIFFERENT

II. THE TASTE WAS DIFFERENT

I. THE METHOD WAS DIFFERENT

Anyone who has truly studied both the Old and New Testament in any detail soon realizes how the two compliment each other. One interesting study is that of **The Tabernacle of Moses**. There would also be no meaning to much of the New Testament teaching of **Soteriology** without the foundation that was set in the Old Testament.

It was God who told the Children of Israel that they had to sacrifice animals for the atonement of their sins. He introduced the **Mosaic Covenant** with all its practises and feasts. They were told to follow it with complete obedience. That is why they found it so difficult to make any changes. Their forefathers were repeatedly punished for the slightest changes they tried to introduce or anytime they disobeyed its strict code of Law.

“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

James 2:10

Therefore, the Old Testament was not wrong or misleading in any way. It was serving an important purpose. It was to bring the Children of Israel from Point “A” to Point “B.” Once they arrived at Point “B” they were then told how to get to Point “C.”

*** I'm sure many of you have watched the reality television game show called **“The Amazing Race.”** The contestants are told that they are competing for one million dollars. None of them know where they are heading in each leg of the race. They simply have to complete each part before their opponents as they are told or they can be eliminated if they arrive last or if they break any rules. They have to overcome **detours** and **roadblocks**. **Route makers** guide them on their way. They are told to carefully read the **clues** they are given along the way.

Their **modes of transportation** include planes, taxis, rental cars, boats and even trains. They sometimes have to **yield** to another while at other times they can go **fast forward**. They may also enter **an intersection** where they must pair up with another team to accomplish their task. They even have **to overcome speed bumps** (additional tasks to complete) before they can continue the race. Some receive penalties along the race. Some parts are called **“Superlegs”** while others are **“Non-Elimination Legs.”** Much of this reminds me of our daily walk with the LORD and how God's METHODS have changed over time. ***

I. THE METHOD WAS DIFFERENT (Contd.)

Jesus used the parabolic illustration of the wine and wineskins to demonstrate the changes that needed to take place in the near future. It was very descriptive because everyone was influenced by wine at that time in history and in that location.

*** Wine was the most common drink for people in Palestine. However, they never had a bottling company that could process and package their drinks for them. Neither did they have refrigeration like we have today. But fortunately, the wine was less likely than water or milk to be contaminated as its alcohol content killed germs.

Along with this, they had leak-resistant animal skins that could be processed and treated in such a way that they could expand and stretch along with the new wine as it fermented. Wineskins were bags made of skin or leather, usually a goat hide tied at the legs and the neck. After the flesh and bones were removed from the inside of the goat the skin was tanned over fires of acacia wood.

Then the openings were sewn shut, the neck of the goat was used for the spout, and unfermented grape juice was poured in. Afterwards the neck was sewn shut and the fermentation process began.

As the new wine fermented and expanded, it would stretch the new wineskins. **Putting new (unfermented) wine in old wineskins, which had already been stretched and somewhat dried out, would result in the bursting of the wineskins. Old wineskins become brittle and rigid with age; when new wine was put in these, gases built--producing pressure and a Bang! The wine and was then ruined along with the wineskin.** ***

I am so glad that **God has Changed His Method without Compromising His Message.** There will always be a contemporary thought and means of promoting the truth of the Gospel. Even the Old Testament prophets spoke about it.

*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
19. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the
desert and streams in the wasteland.”*

Isaiah 43:18,19

It's like God is constructing a new building on the site of the old one. He doesn't use the old parts and pieces. The new ones will serve the same purpose as the old ones did but it is an **“Extreme Makeover.”**

II. THE TASTE WAS DIFFERENT

“The Jews knew that wine increased with both strength and flavour as it aged. It also became mild and mellow as it grew old. Wine that was just taken from the press was rather sour and biting.

You Pharisees wish to draw my disciples to the “austere” and “rigid” duties of the ceremonial law - to fasting and painful rites; but they have come under a milder system. They have tasted the gentle and tender blessings of the gospel; they have no “relish” for your stern and harsh requirements. To insist now on their observing them would be like telling a man who had tasted of good, ripe, and mild wine to partake of that which is sour and unpalatable.

At the proper time all the sterner duties of religion will be properly regarded; but “at present,” to teach them to fast when they see “no occasion” for it - when they are full of joy at the presence of their Master - would be like putting a piece of new cloth on an old garment, or new wine into old bottles, or drinking unpleasant wine after one had tasted that which was more pleasant. It would be ill-timed, inappropriate, and incongruous.”

Albert Barnes
“Notes on the Bible”

It’s difficult to get someone to return to something that is not as good as what they now have. Ladies, would you like to return to the **old scrub board and clothes line** instead of having a washer and dryer? Men, would you be willing to give up your **remote control** and get up to change the channel and volume as you used to? Have you noticed how the functions keep improving on newer purchases?

The disciples had tasted of the best and they were not about to return to that which wasn’t pleasant. But the same is true of those who had tasted of the Old and had not yet experienced the New.

“And no one after drinking the old wine wants the new, for he says, ‘The old is better.’”

Luke 5:39

This is why it is probably best to decide which way you plan to live out your life for God and then do it with all your heart. Jesus saved the best wine at the wedding of Cana in Galilee until the last. Why go back to the old once you’ve tasted of the new?

II. THE TASTE WAS DIFFERENT (Contd.)

Let me end with a few illustrations.

*** The greatest basketball free-thrower in the history of the NBA was a man named Rick Barry. He had a phenomenal accuracy--well over 90%. He won the free-throw record year after year in the NBA by throwing the ball "*granny-style*." It looked weird--even sissy. But it worked! It worked because **Rick Barry was less concerned about how something looked than about whether or not it worked.** ***

*** At the 19th Summer Olympics in Mexico City in 1968 an American named Dick Fosbury set an Olympic record in the High Jump and brought home a gold medal. No one had ever jumped 7'4.25" before! What was so unusual about Fosbury's feat was that he did the high jump backwards. It looked awkward and strange. It was called "*The Fosbury Flop*." But it worked! **It worked because Dick Fosbury was less concerned about how something looked than he was about whether or not it was effective.** ***

The Holy Spirit (who is illustrated by the wine) wants to inhabit New Wine Skins. We are the New Wine Skins. His New Way began on the Day of Pentecost almost 2,000 years ago. It has continued until this day. Changes have continued to come over time. Some changes were good while others were not. Some were introduced by God while others were the outcome of men's thinking. You can always tell the difference over time.

I believe it is time for the Church to accept what the Holy Spirit wishes to do in our generation. We are going to build upon the old but not necessarily use the same methods or keep the "taste" the same

** A traveller once came upon a wise man who was sitting at a fork in the road throwing a stick into the air. "*What are you doing?*" the traveller asked. The wise man replied, "***Trying to decide which way to go.***" The traveller looked confused. "*But why do you keep throwing that stick in the air. It keeps pointing in that direction.*" "*Yes I know, but you don't understand,*" the wise man replied. "*I want to go the other way!*" **

C:\Documents\WPWin(X9)\Sermons.2019\Parables\Matthew 9_14.17.wpd

Date: Aug 18/19

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Jesus, Lord to Me - E

THE PARABLE OF THE NEW WINE AND OLD WINESKINS

Text: Matthew 9:14-17
Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39

Key Word: Tradition

Key Thought: No One Should Want to Return to the Harsh and Bitter Laws of the Old Testament

What Is So Different Between God's Ways of Dealing with Mankind since the New Testament Has Been Introduced to the Church?

I. THE METHOD WAS DIFFERENT - *James 2:10; Isaiah 43:18,19*

II. THE TASTE WAS DIFFERENT - *Luke 5:39*