

**Title:** The New Wine of Christ

**Passage:** Mark 2:18-22

**Context of Passage:**

- recorded after Matthew the tax collector had been called and Jesus eating with him and other collectors.

Mark 2:16

And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

- Religious leaders of that day looked upon with disdain

Mark 2:17

And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

- Jesus calling out the distinct message that He brings compared to the religious leaders of that day.

**Passage:** Mark 2:18-22

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

**Key Point:**

Jesus did not come to be in parallel and co-exist with the existing religious establishment but rather supersedes it entirely.

**Compare**

Prior religious system:

- if we work hard enough to please God, we can have favor with God.

Jesus' new message:

- You can do nothing. It is what God does through His Son that makes you clean.

**Question:** Do all roads/religious means lead to heaven?

John 14:4-6

[Jesus said] “And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Answer:** No. Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

- one cannot reconcile all different religions

- Every non-Christian religion: You can save you.
- Jesus: My death on the cross is the only way to save you.
- Analogy: Not every flight goes to Rome. Likewise, not every path leads to heaven.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

### **Overview:**

- I. Accusation in the form of a question
- II. Jesus answer points to His crucifixion
- III. Jesus gives analogy through illustrations
- IV. Application

## **I. ACCUSATION IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION**

Mark 2:18

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”

- Fasting:
  - previously, only commanded once a year (Day of Atonement - Leviticus 16, a national day of repentance)
  - Pharisees: commanded fasting twice a week and determined whether one was righteous or not.
- Jesus
  - Himself only fasted during 40 days of temptation
- Today: Fasting should be used to point towards God (not to elevate oneself in other people's eyes)
  - Book: “God's Chosen fast” (Arthur Wallis)

## **II. JESUS ANSWER POINTS TO HIS CRUCIFIXION**

Mark 2:19-20

And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

- fasting was prohibited during a wedding
- Jesus pointed that He was present as a wedding.

*The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them.*

- taken away = lifted up (same word/meaning)
- Points to the crucifixion when Jesus would be lifted up on a cross

## **III. JESUS GIVES ANALOGY THROUGH ILLUSTRATIONS**

- Jesus cannot be associated in any way to the existing religious system
- The true message of salvation is incompatible with any “works-based” righteous system.

Mark 2:21

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.

- Jesus' message of salvation of repentance of sin cannot be attached to superficial religion. Jesus did not come to "patch up" the old system but replace it entirely.

Mark 2:22

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.

- The exclusivity of the Christian Gospel - any attempt to put the truth of Jesus with any other false religious system actually leads to hell (not heaven).

Temptation: We want to add our own good works to bring about our salvation to heaven.

- Effect: diminish what Jesus did on the cross.
- Why would Jesus die if you could do something to save yourself?

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Accept and believe Jesus alone.

#### IV. APPLICATION

*The new wine of Jesus Christ makes it clear that doctrine matters.*

- A right understanding of the Bible truly matters
- We must be faithful to what God has said.

John 8:24

I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."

- lack of precision and accuracy in doctrine leads to faltering of faith and leads to how you behave.

*Right doctrine by itself is not enough.*

James 2:19

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

- A heart made new involves not only right doctrine from within but also naturally leads to external evidence of that change as live a life of gratitude to thank and honor God

*Difference between Gospel transformation and moral behavior*

- It is Christ in you that brings about genuine change and transformation.
- A world of nice-ness trusting in that nice-ness is just in need of the Gospel as a world of not nice-ness.
- The Gospel of Jesus is not about creating nice people but new creations.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- Invitation to come to Jesus for salvation and be changed into His likeness

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Prayer: Jesus, be Jesus in me.

Prayer: Admit - Believe - Confess

Romans 10:9-10

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.