

New Cloth & New Wineskins (Luke 5:33-39)

Time with the Messiah

Read Luke 5:33-36.

1. At Mount Sinai, God established a covenant with his Old Testament people, the Israelites. What do the following passages tell us about that covenant?
Exodus 19:5-6 *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'*

Romans 3:20 *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Colossians 2:16-17 *So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.*
2. As part of the Sinaitic covenant, God commanded that his people fast on the annual Day of Atonement. According to the following verse, for what purpose had God prescribed fasting?
Joel 2:12 *"Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."*
3. In his parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, Jesus said, "The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week . . .'" (Luke 18:11,12). Into what had the practice of fasting degenerated?
4. On the night before his death, Jesus said, "Drink from it [the cup], all of you. This is my blood of the [new] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:27,28). Explain the new covenant. How does it differ from the old?
5. Who are the "friends" and "bridegroom" of verse 34? What is Jesus saying in this verse?
6. When it comes to mending and patching, what does every experienced seamstress understand?

7. Check and discuss each correct conclusion to the following sentence: With his picture of sewing a new patch on an old garment, Jesus is teaching us that
- God likes fashion-conscious people.
 - it is difficult to add the new covenant of grace to the old covenant of the law.
 - mixing the two covenants can be tricky business and must be done carefully.
 - it is impossible to add the new covenant of grace to the old covenant of the law.
8. Synergism is from the Greek and means “working together.” When applied to salvation, it means that we work together with God for eternal life. What makes this thought so appealing to us and to others?

Read Luke 5:37-39.

9. What happens to wine as it ferments? Explain verse 37.
10. Check and discuss each correct conclusion to the following sentence: With his picture of new wine and old wineskins, Jesus is teaching that
- we should probably just stick with bottles.
 - in order to preserve the new covenant, the old must be removed altogether.
 - mixing the two covenants must be done slowly, gradually, and very carefully.
 - mixing the new covenant of grace with the old covenant of the law destroys both.
11. Agree or disagree. It is possible for a person to be saved through the old covenant of the law.
12. Jesus observes that some people prefer the old covenant. Why do some prefer this “old wine”? What effect does the “old wine” have on one’s heart, on one’s life, and on one’s eternity?
13. The writer to the Hebrews said that the new covenant of grace “has made the first one obsolete” (Hebrews 8:13). In spite of this truth, Christians still live under God’s law. Explain.
14. “Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.” (Galatians 3:24,25). Nonetheless, Christian churches will, at times, legalistically place themselves under certain regulations that rob them of their freedom in Christ. Give examples of such legalistic practices.
15. Fasting is an adiaphoron—something that God neither forbids nor commands of his New Testament people. Think of good reasons for which a Christian might want to fast.