



## Sermon Discussion Questions

January 28, 2024

### *Jesus in Galilee*

## **NEW WINESKINS**

Luke 5:33-39

### **1. Opening Discussion Questions**

- a. Have you ever had the experience of having to buy a new computer/tablet/phone because some new app or program didn't work well on your old device? How difficult or frustrating was it before you got your new device? Did you regret upgrading your technology?
- b. After becoming a Christian, was there ever a time when you suddenly felt awkward, uncomfortable, or ashamed about doing something you'd often done before becoming a Christian? Share your story if you're comfortable or at least describe how you responded to that feeling.

### **2. Sermon Outline/Key Points**

- a. Confronted About Unusual Behavior, Jesus Says Old Ways Don't Apply to New Creation
  - i. Religious leaders confronted Jesus about His disciples' behavior
  - ii. Jesus explains this was a special time and fasting was for later
  - iii. Jesus explains how it's foolish to force new and old together
- b. Are You New Creation Poured Into An Old Wineskin?
  - i. When you trust in Christ, you are new creation
  - ii. Our pre-Christian / secular worldview is often our old wineskin
  - iii. As new creation, we need to embrace a new mindset and worldview

### **3. Study/Discussion Points:**

- a. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to prayerfully ponder these questions:
  - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
  - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
  - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
  - iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
  - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. *Monday* – *Confronted About Unusual Behavior, Jesus Says Old Ways Don't Apply to New Creation*
  - i. Read Luke 5:33-39.

1. Who is talking to Jesus and what is their primary concern?
  2. Do you think they were asking out of genuine curiosity or as a means of criticizing Jesus as a leader?
  3. Read Leviticus 23:26-32 and Matthew 6:16-18. The Day of Atonement was the only day of fasting required by the Old Testament Law. However, by the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, the Pharisees typically fasted twice each week.
    - a. Based on Matthew 6, what do you think may have motivated the fasting of some Pharisees?
    - b. What do the words of Jesus in Matthew 6 and this passage imply about Christians fasting in our present day?
  4. What are the three main responses Jesus gives those asking him about His disciples' lack of fasting?
    - a. Do you understand all three arguments? What questions do you have about any of them?
    - b. Which of these arguments do you find most persuasive?
- c. **Tuesday** – *Jesus explains this was a special time and fasting was for later*
- i. Reread Luke 5:34-35.
  - ii. The Bible often uses wedding-related analogies to describe Jesus and His coming into the world. The ultimate vision of this can be found in Revelation 19:6-16 along with Revelation 21:1-4 and 9-14. Read and meditate on these passages, realizing that Jesus IS the bridegroom.
  - iii. The point Jesus makes is that His earthly ministry is a unique time of joy and fellowship with His disciples, not a time for affliction. Nonetheless, He explains that His followers will fast after He ascends to Heaven.
    1. Have you ever fasted for spiritual purposes (not related to medical needs or weight loss)? If so, how often do you fast?
    2. If you have fasted, what was your experience with that? How did it affect your prayer life or give expression to the burdens of your hearts?
    3. If you haven't fasted, what prevents you from doing so? Do you know how to safely fast for spiritual purposes? If not, look for resources from LRBC in days to come as there is a day of fasting coming in February!
- d. **Wednesday** – *Jesus explains how it's foolish to force new and old together*
- i. Read Luke 5:36-38
  - ii. Jesus tells two short parables to explain why you simply can't force something new into old systems and patterns.
    1. The first parable relates to fabric that hasn't been preshrunk the way modern clothing often is. What happens when unshrunk cloth is stitched onto cloth that has shrunk after frequent laundering?

2. The second parable relates to wine making when barrels weren't part of the process. New wine is freshly squeezed grape juice. It's full of sugar and hasn't yet fermented. The fermentation process consumes the sugar to produce alcohol and carbon dioxide gas. That gas stretches the elastic skin in which the wine was stored. A new wineskin could handle the stretching. An old wineskin that's already been stretched simply couldn't stretch any more – it would burst from the buildup of gas.
3. For the purposes of these parables, what is “the new” – the new wine or the new piece of cloth? What is “the old”?
4. Jesus doesn't just say it's unnecessary to force the new into the old, He says it's foolish and destructive. Nonetheless, we still see Christians sometimes trying to live by Old Covenant requirements already fulfilled by Jesus. Have you ever had someone tell you do a particular religious practice because it was required in the Law of Moses? Did you check that requirement against the teaching of the New Covenant to see if it still applied?

*e. Thursday – When you trust in Christ, you are new creation*

- i. Read Luke 5:33-38 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.
- ii. If Jesus is your Savior, then you ARE new creation. This happened the moment you first believed in Jesus.
  1. What does it mean to you to be new creation? Do you feel new? Note that your feeling doesn't alter the reality. You ARE new creation in Jesus Christ!
  2. As new creation, we're called to live in radical obedience to the example and teachings of Jesus. This is the “new wineskin”.
  3. In light of the two parables in this week's passage, do you feel like you've been living more like “new” or “old”?
  4. Are there aspects of your new life in Christ that haven't changed at all from before you knew Jesus? Should they have changed?

*f. Friday – Our pre-Christian / secular worldview is often our old wineskin*

- i. Once again, read Luke 5:33-39.
- ii. We all have a way of thinking about the world in matters of morality, ethics, science, and reason. These define how we think about difficult or controversial issues.
  1. This way of thinking is called your worldview. Everyone has a worldview. Our worldview is formed through a combination of how we were raised, how we were educated, what we've read, watched, and heard, our culture, our religion, and our experiences.
  2. Every institution (school, religion, political affiliation, nation, employer, etc.) seeks to influence or instill some or all of our

worldview. What people and institutions have contributed to the way you think, feel, and believe?

3. God wants His people to have a biblical worldview. However, we often already have a complete worldview before we even begin to think about or like God. Most Christians don't actually have a biblical worldview on issues of abortion, sexuality, liberty, justice, mercy, money, parenting, and so much more. We continue to think about issues as Americans / Westerners / Rationalists / Republicans / Democrats / Progressives / Conservatives / Baby Boomers / Gen X / Millennials / Gen Z rather than as new creation with the mind of Christ. Read Romans 12:2 and Philippians 2:1-5. In what ways do you currently have the renewed, transformed mind of Christ? In what ways are you still thinking according to a non-biblical worldview?

g. **Saturday** – *As new creation, we need to embrace a new mindset and worldview*

- i. Read Luke 4:37-39. Verse 39 tells us that it will be very difficult to leave our old mindset and worldview behind to learn to think like Jesus.

1. Have you resisted thinking through tough issues in the way Jesus would? What has helped you get past that internal resistance?
2. What is God's perspective (and why does He feel that way) on issues that divide our nation today, including
  - a. Abortion
  - b. Assisted suicide
  - c. Gender and sexuality
  - d. Legalization of drugs
  - e. Race relations

4. **Application:** Today's sermon related to the presentation by LifeFirst, a local ministry partner of LRBC committed to saving the lives of unborn children and the souls of their parents. American secular culture largely opposes this work, considering it to be an infringement on individual liberty. This mindset can be an old wineskin into which many Christians are poured – we believe in Jesus but still think like we thought before we did. Make time to reflect on your perspective regarding the issue of abortion and the significance of all human life to God. To what extent have you been influenced, now or in the past, by the thinking of non-believing writers, speakers, activists, or advertisers? Do you need to study more about this issue to understand God's perspective and teachings? Are there other controversial issues about which you need to study God's perspective because your thinking about it is still an "old wineskin"?

## 5. Prayer Points:

- a. **A**doration – 1 Peter 4:16
- b. **C**onfession – James 5:16
- c. **T**hanksgiving – 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- d. **S**upplications – James 4:2-3