

*The Gospel According to Mark*

## **Old Wineskins Don't Stretch**

**Mark 2:18-22**



4/10/2022 AM

### **Introduction:**

#### **I. THE ACCUSATION LEVELED AT JESUS (vs. 18)**

“John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and they came and said to Him, ‘Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?’ ”

Matthew 6:16-18

##### **A. The Practice of Fasting**

##### **B. The Purpose of Fasting**

- 1) Fasting is one of the spiritual disciplines
- 2) Fasting is intended to strengthen our prayer
- 3) To fast is to set aside one good for a greater good
- 4) Fasting reveals who you are and leads you to repentance and devotion
- 5) Hungering physically teaches you about spiritual hunger
- 6) Fasting reveals what masters us (it goes against our practical culture and nature)
- 7) Fasting fights the deadening effects of innocent delights

##### **C. The Perversion of Fasting**

#### **II. THE ANSWER GIVEN BY JESUS (vs. 19-20)**

##### **A. There’s a Wrong Time to Fast (vs. 19)**

“And Jesus said to them, ‘While the bridegroom is with them, the attendants of the bridegroom cannot fast, can they? So long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.’ ”

##### **B. There’s a Right Time to Fast (vs. 20)**

“ ‘But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.’ ”

### III. TWO ANALOGIES THAT EXPAND THE ANSWER (vs. 21-22)

#### A. Fixing Your Wardrobe (vs. 21)

“ ‘No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment...’ ”

Genesis 3:21

Isaiah 61:10

Hebrews 8:13

Matthew 5:17-19

“ ‘otherwise the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear results.’ ”

#### B. Filling Your Wineskin (vs. 22)

“ ‘No one puts new wine into old wineskins...’ ”

“ ‘otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost and the skins as well; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.’ ”

### Conclusion:

“Jesus came to usher in the new, not to unite with the old. The Mosaic economy was decaying, getting old, and ready to vanish away (Heb. 8:13). Jesus would establish a new covenant in His blood (Luke 22:19-20). The Law would be written on human hearts, not on stones (Heb. 10:15-18; II Cor 3:1-3); and the indwelling Holy Spirit would enable God's people to fulfill the righteousness of the Law (Rom. 8:1-4). ....Jesus fulfilled the prophecies, types, and demands of the Law of Moses. The Law was ended at Calvary when the perfect sacrifice was once [for all] offered for the sins of the world (Heb. 8 - 10). When you trust Jesus Christ, you become part of a new creation (II Cor. 5:17), and there are always new experiences of grace and glory. How tragic when people hold on to the dead religious tradition when they could lay hold of living spiritual truth. Why cherish the shadows when the reality has come?” – Warren Wiersbe, *Be Diligent*, p. 28-29

### Food for Thought:

- 1) How would you counsel a Jewish friend seeking a church for fellowship?
- 2) How and when might believers fast today? Under what circumstances would you consider fasting?
- 3) What can be accomplished by fasting?
- 4) What aspects of OT Judaism are represented by the “old garment” or the “old wineskins” that must be discarded now that they have been fulfilled in Christ?