

## **The Forgotten Jesus Podcast**

**S6E15**

### **Wedding, Wardrobe & Wineskins, part 1 - (Mark 2:18-22)**

**Description – A question about fasting from the Pharisees leads to a discourse from Jesus, but it may not be about what we’ve always thought it was about. Join us today as we begin to examine this discourse from Jesus.**

#### **Mark 2:18-22**

<sup>18</sup> Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. People came and asked him, “Why do John’s disciples and the Pharisees’ disciples fast, but your disciples do not fast?”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot fast while the groom is with them, can they? As long as they have the groom with them, they cannot fast. <sup>20</sup> But the time will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. <sup>21</sup> No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new patch pulls away from the old cloth, and a worse tear is made. <sup>22</sup> And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost as well as the skins. No, new wine is put into fresh wineskins.”

So where was Jesus when this question came about? The religious leaders recognized that John’s ministry and Jesus’s ministry were supposed to support each other. So why is it that John’s disciples fast, and the pharisees fast, but Jesus’s disciples don’t?

So who were “the people” here? The religious elite. The religious leaders.

Luke 5 is the parallel encounter. The “people” here are the scribes, teachers and Pharisees.

Remember, back in the day the Pharisees are the ones who are most like Jesus and his teachings. Not the Herodians, or the Essenees, or even the Saducees.

Even before Jesus used the term, “Kingdom of God” the Pharisees used this term.

The three most important disciplines of Judaism:

1. Prayer
2. Fasting
3. Almsgiving

They believed that these three were the premier disciplines of Judaism.

That’s why Jesus hits all 3 of these in Matthew 6.  
Every Jew fasted on the day of atonement, Yom Kippur

In the bible, when it talks about fasting its always about food.

In the Mishna, there are three other fasts mentioned:

1. A fast for a national day of mourning
  - a. Isaiah 7
2. A fast for a disaster
  - a. Famine, pestilence, etc
3. A fast for personal reasons

Esther called the nation to fast for the edict of Xerxes. Joel called the nation to fast for repentance.

Even though it wasn't required by the law, the Pharisees would fast twice a week. Mondays and Thursdays.

Some people fasted as a sacrifice to get God's attention. They wanted to try to move the hand of God.

In this passage from Mark 2, we've heard several things in sermons.

1. The importance of fasting
2. The need to fast

But in reality, it's a comparison / contrast between truth and untruth, between righteousness and sinfulness. Jesus is looking at the internal, but the Pharisees were worried about the external things.

The Pharisees are still in the interrogation / investigation stage here. They're interacting, they're asking questions.

Remember, Jesus doesn't hate the Pharisees. He's like a coach who knows they can do better.

Notice how Jesus, who's "off" right now, relaxing at a dinner, responds to their question.

He answers a question with a question:

### **Mark 2:19**

<sup>19</sup> Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the groom is with them, can they?"

To understand this, you have to remember what we've talked about with 1st century weddings:

Link to show here: (S3E17)

[https://rock.longhollow.com/Content/S3E17\\_The\\_Engagement\\_Process\\_in\\_the\\_1st\\_century\\_- Luke 1 26-27.pdf](https://rock.longhollow.com/Content/S3E17_The_Engagement_Process_in_the_1st_century_-_Luke_1_26-27.pdf)

The Messiah is the bridegroom, the church is the bride.

Jesus is defining the season they're in. The Groom is with them right now, they're excited, they're feasting, not fasting. (While literally at a feast.)

Remember, weddings were week-long festivals. During that time the Groom and the Bride were treated like royalty. They were waited on, served choice food and drink, etc.

The Rabbis even said that attendees of a wedding were exempt from fasting. Weddings were ceremonies of their relationship with God.

So if Jesus is the Groom, and the Church is the Bride, then where is the Holy Spirit? He's the guarantee of the covenant. In a sense, He's the ring, but He's more than that.

### **Ephesians 1:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. <sup>14</sup> The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

Sealed / down payment - carries the commerce terms of being a down payment, a guarantee of future full payment used in commerce.