

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S6E16

Wedding, Wardrobe & Wineskins, part 2 - (Mark 2:19-22)

Description – Join us today as we continue to look at Jesus’s response to a question on fasting, and what the deeper issue is beyond just fasting here in Mark 2.

We left off on quite the cliffhanger last episode talking about a double parable in Mark 2.

Mark 2:19-22

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ But the time will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. ²¹ 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. ²² 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.”

We mentioned last time that you could look at this whole passage as a Wedding, a Wardrobe, and Wineskins.

Jesus uses two examples / illustrations here:

1. Wardrobe
2. Wineskins

So if you have clothing that has a hole in them, you don’t take a brand new patch of unshrunk fabric to the old clothing. Why? Because the patch will shrink when washed and rip the hole even bigger. The new patch will shrink and tear the old garment.

The traditional thinking here is: Jesus is comparing the old law / judaism to the old garment, the old clothing and Christianity / the church is the new fabric, new patch.

And the new wine is for fresh wineskins, because it’s sitting to ferment. You don’t put that into old skins because it will shred them as it expands, and then you lose both the drink and the skins.

Dr. Chuck Quarrels, Pastor Robby’s greek professor in Seminary, (who Robby nicknamed “the Hammer”) said, “after a careful study of the Mishna and the talmud, the dilution rate of water to wine in the 1st century was 3 cups of water to 1 cup wine. So you’d end up with a drink that had roughly 2% Alcohol by volume.

Meanwhile an 80 proof whiskey today is thirteen times more alcoholic by volume. Wine today is 5 times stronger than in the 1st century.

Jesus turning water into wine was a miracle because he made “the best wine.” Not meaning the strongest alcoholic drink, but the best tasting wine. Because it took time to produce this wine, for it to ferment. The miracle here was showing Jesus controlled time, He was over time. He was showing that He was God.

Back to the old clothes / patches and old & new wineskins:

We’ve always been taught and just assume that Jesus came to get rid of the old covenant and establish a new covenant, a new religion.

It’s grown in popularity because of replacement theology. That Jesus came to replace the old with the new. The people of God (Israel) with the new, the Church.

The problem with that theology is one verse in the Bible:

Luke 5:39

³⁹ And no one, after drinking old wine, wants new, because he says, ‘The old is better.’”

Now, if you’re reading this at face value, it appears that Jesus reverses the thought they’ve just been making. That old is bad, new is good.

Marcian - a heretic in the early - mid 2nd century, (130’s - 140’s AD) had a problem with this verse, (And other verses too) so much so that he removed it from the canon of scripture.

Marcianism - proposed an entirely new Bible, that the Old Testament angry / wrathful God had now been replaced with the Grace giving New Testament God.

He is the first guy to create this idea of replacement theology. He throws out Luke 5:39 because it doesn’t work with his theological construct.

Even with all of that, this isn’t really what Jesus is talking about. We’re interpreting it through the lens of today, not the 1st century.

One Rabbi said in the Mishna, “Do not pay attention to the container, pay attention to what the container is holding.”

So they were used to using symbolic language. In doing so, these parables are about the Teacher, his disciples, and his teachings. (The Wedding, The Wardrobe & Wineskins).

Jesus isn’t saying the old and new wine and the wardrobe are about old and new religions. They are about a teacher and his disciples.
Jesus isn’t destroying the old. Remember, he’s the fulfillment of the old testament as the Messiah.

Jesus is at a house with a bunch of guys who don't look like they're religious at all. Peter, Andrew, James & John (Fisherman). Matthew and his tax collecting sinner friends, Phillip and Nathaniel. These guys aren't the sharp buttoned down religious elite, they're not the Pharisees in their education or schooling.

Jesus chooses uneducated, ordinary men to be his disciples. He came to call sinners to repentance.

If the Pharisees and the Torah scholars had become Jesus's disciples, they would have remained in their old clothing, trying to put the new patch of Jesus on their old garments. They would have been the old wineskins trying to fill up with new wine, which would have never worked!

Jesus uses the outcasts, the messed up, the broken to be His trophies of grace & mercy. He wants to use them to reach others for the Kingdom of God.