

THE FORGOTTEN JESUS PODCAST

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Season 6 Episode 15

Wedding, Wardrobe, & Wineskins, Pt. 1

Mark 2:18-22

This study challenges us to consider what it means to follow Jesus with a renewed heart and mindset, not clinging to old religious systems but living with joyful awareness of His presence.

Main Idea: Jesus is not here to patch up the old system—He came to usher in something completely new: a relationship marked by joy, transformation, and presence, not ritual.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What's happening in the context of this passage?** Who's asking the question about fasting, and why?
2. **Why do you think the Pharisees and John's disciples fasted while Jesus' disciples didn't?**
3. **What does Jesus mean when He says the "wedding guests cannot fast while the groom is with them"?**
4. **How does the first-century wedding context help us understand this passage better?**
5. **What role does the Holy Spirit play in the analogy of the wedding, as shared in this episode?**

6. **Why does Jesus follow up the wedding analogy with metaphors about garments and wineskins?**
 7. **How do these illustrations point to the incompatibility of the old religious system with the new life Jesus offers?**
 8. **How do you think the Pharisees would have heard and received these metaphors?**
 9. **What does Jesus' tone and posture in this conversation reveal about how He engaged religious leaders?**
 10. **What's the deeper issue Jesus is addressing beneath the surface question of fasting?**
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APPLICATION QUESTIONS





1. **Have you ever been tempted to focus more on religious performance than relationship with Jesus?** What does that look like in your life?
2. **What "old wineskins" (ways of thinking or living) might God be asking you to leave behind so He can do something new?**
3. **In what ways are you tempted to measure spiritual health by external practices instead of inward transformation?**
4. **How do you experience joy in your walk with Jesus today?** How might your joy reflect your awareness of "the Groom's" presence?
5. **Fasting was about drawing close to God. What practices help you grow in intimacy with Jesus today?**
6. **Are there spiritual disciplines you practice just out of obligation or tradition?** How might they be renewed by joy and purpose?
7. **How do you view the Holy Spirit—as a "seal," a "down payment," or a distant concept?** How can your view become more relational?
8. **Is there a religious mindset you need to challenge in yourself—perhaps one rooted in guilt, striving, or fear?**


9. How can you encourage others to embrace the *newness* of life with Jesus without getting caught up in legalism?
 10. How would your life look different if you truly lived every day as if the Groom were with you, inviting you to a feast?
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PRAYER PROMPT


“Jesus, thank You that You didn’t come to improve an old system but to offer us something entirely new—life with You. Help us not to cling to old wineskins of religion, guilt, or control. Fill us with joy as we follow You, and teach us what it means to walk in the freedom and intimacy of being Your Bride. Holy Spirit, seal us and renew us daily, so that we may live fully for Your glory. Amen.”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1.  **Parallel Texts:**
 - Luke 5:33-39
 - Matthew 9:14-17
2.  **Listen Again:**
 - *Forgotten Jesus Podcast*, S6E15: [Listen here](#)
3.  **Related Resource:**
 - *The Forgotten Jesus* by Robby Gallaty – especially chapters on Jewish customs and the Kingdom of God
4.  **Long Hollow YouTube Channel:**

Search for sermons that cover *Mark 2* or teachings on spiritual disciplines and joy
[YouTube Channel](#)
5.  **The CSB Harmony of the Gospels**

A helpful tool for studying gospel parallels:
[Purchase Here](#)

6.  **BEMA Podcast** – Episodes on covenantal relationships and Eastern wedding imagery (Series 3 recommended)
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