



## Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

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### Week 10: New Wine and Old Wine Skins

#### THE TEXT: Luke 5:33-39

<sup>33</sup> One day some people said to Jesus, “John the Baptist’s disciples fast and pray regularly, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why are your disciples always eating and drinking?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus responded, “Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. <sup>35</sup> But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.”

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus gave them this illustration: “No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn’t even match the old garment.

<sup>37</sup> “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. <sup>38</sup> New wine must be stored in new wineskins. <sup>39</sup> But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. ‘The old is just fine,’ they say.” (Luke 5:33–39 NLT-SE)

#### THE SAGA CONTINUES

- Today’s teaching is actually a continuation of the stories we’ve looked at the last couple weeks:

- Jesus is teaching in a home in Capernaum. Local religious leaders from all over there area have come to listen, not because they were impressed, but they wanted to catch Jesus saying or doing something that was contrary to “the Law.”
- Some men had brought their friend, a paralytic, to be healed by Jesus. They couldn’t get in the door because of the crowd, so his friends lowered him down through the roof.
- Instead of healing him, Jesus declared that his sins were forgiven which infuriated the Pharisees. “The Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, “Who does he think he is? That’s blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!” (Luke 5:21 NLT-SE) As a bonus, Jesus heals the paralytic and sends him on his way.
- Jesus leaves Capernaum and on the way out of town walks by a tax collector named Levi. Jesus says two words to him, “Follow me.” Levi leaves that life behind and brings Jesus and the disciples to his home where they are his guests at a huge dinner party attended by Levi’s tax collector friends.
- As they are leaving the party, a group of Pharisees confront the disciples saying, “Why do you eat and drink with such scum?” (Luke 5:30 NLT-SE) **Jesus’ response is the heart of the Gospel message.** “<sup>31</sup> “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. <sup>32</sup> I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.” (Luke 5:31–32 NLT-SE)

- What happens next is really a continuation of the confrontation with religious leaders that seems to becoming a daily occurrence for Jesus. They approach him saying, “John the Baptist’s disciples fast and pray regularly, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why are your disciples always eating and drinking?” (Luke 5:33 NLT-SE)
- Jesus responds with three brief examples highlighting the incompatibility between the **old way** of doing things and the **new way** that he is demonstrating almost daily. This is not a comparison between the Old Testament and the New Testament, but the tension that exists between the religious form that had developed over time under the leadership of the Pharisees and the Gospel of grace that was emerging from the ministry of Jesus.
  - **Old...**A misunderstanding based upon what God was doing in the OT. The old way of looking at things was taking the commands of God and using them to divide humanity. The old was self-reliant. There was no real need for forgiveness. We just need a “boost.”
  - **New...**Jesus comes and fulfills the law. You no longer get to use the commands of God to divide sinners from the righteous. He’s saying, “There is only one righteous and that’s me! But, I’m going to pull a switcheroo. I’m going to take your place on the cross. I now have your sins on me, and I give my righteousness to you!”

## AS/IF VS. IF/THEN

- **Incompatible:** **Jesus is bringing a message that is incompatible with the Pharisee’s message...**The message of Jesus is **different** from, **incompatible** with, and in **opposition** to the self-righteous religion of the Pharisees. Biblical teacher, Justin Holcomb says that the Gospel of grace Jesus is promoting is all about “As/If,” and self-righteous religion of the Pharisees pushes “If/then.”
  - **As/If** (Grace)...When Jesus was eating with sinners, he was treating them *As/If* (*Imputation*) the were pure and innocent, even though they were not. On the other hand, the Pharisees, through their grid of self-righteous religion, were treating Jesus *As/If* he were sinful, impure and worthy of judgement. Jesus did such a good job of identifying with sinners, the Pharisees called him a drunkard and glutton in Matt 11. This is the power of the Gospel of grace which triggers repentance!
  - **If/Then** (Religion)...If you are a sinner, I’m not going to eat with you! If you fast and pray, then you will be considered righteous. If you clean up your act and love God, then he will love you. The Gospel of As/If-ness of grace is for you. The If/Then-ness of self-righteousness religion is against you, reminding you for your sin; rubbing your nose in it!
- I heard someone put it this way...The difference between what Jesus is doing and what the Pharisees are doing is the difference between a **taxidermist** and a **veterinarian**. If you bring a dog to them, they will both give you your dog back, but only one is jumping, slobbering and happy. The other is sitting in the corner gathering dust!
- Jesus is saying in essence, “Where we’re going, you won’t be able to bring past **structures** and **expectations** with you because you will trust in them and not me. All you know is what you’ve seen or heard of my ministry...what I’ve done. **What you *don’t know* is what I’m about to do in, around, and through your life!**”
  - Paul’s prayer for the believers in Ephesus reflects **God’s desire to go far beyond** our modest expectations of him:
    - <sup>20</sup> Now all glory to God, **who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.** <sup>21</sup> Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. (Eph 3:20–21 NLT-SE)

- That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “**No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.**” (1 Cor 2:9 NLT-SE)
- This scripture is not found literally in the Greek translation of the OT, but you can find it generally here...”For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!” (Is 64:4 NLT-SE)

“Glorifying and enjoying Me is a higher priority than maintaining a tidy, structured life. Give up your striving to keep everything under control—an impossible task and a waste of precious energy. My guidance for each of My children is unique. That’s why listening to Me is so vital for your well-being. Let me prepare you for the day that awaits you and point you in the right direction.”

**Jesus Calling:** *Enjoying Peace in His Presence*  
Sarah Young

## - WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE LEARNED?

- This Jesus is **not intimidated** by anyone!
  - <sup>1</sup> Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. <sup>2</sup> It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> **Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.** (John 13:1–3 NLT-SE)
- **Wisdom from above** is worth its weight in gold.
  - <sup>25</sup> I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he **will teach you everything** and will remind you of everything I have told you. (John 14:25–26 NLT-SE)
  - Wisdom is a gift from a generous God, and every word He speaks is full of revelation and becomes a living fountain of understanding within you. For the Lord **has a hidden storehouse of wisdom made accessible to His godly lovers.** He becomes your personal bodyguard as you follow His ways, protecting and guarding you as you choose what is right. Then you will discover all that is just, proper, and fair, and be empowered to make the right decisions as you walk into your destiny. (Proverbs 2:6-9 PASSION)
  - <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. <sup>14</sup> He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. (John 16:13–14 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>13</sup> When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, **we speak words given to us by the Spirit**, using the Spirit’s words to explain spiritual truths. <sup>14</sup> But people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. (1 Cor 2:13–14 NLT-SE)

- Jesus didn't deny the sincerity of what the Pharisees practiced, it was just not going to be helpful going forward as the coming kingdom began to emerge. The lesson from Jesus here: **Keep you eyes on the prize!**
- <sup>22</sup> When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. <sup>23</sup> **I do everything** to spread the Good News and share in its blessings. (1 Cor 9:22–23 NLT-SE)
- Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? **So run to win!** (1 Cor 9:24 NLT-SE)

The fear of the Lord, a full awareness of God's reality, is immediately and completely transformative. This revelation of God's reality is like electricity flowing through every aspect of our being, teaching us wisdom. Sometimes, we think that “wisdom” is simply to take our finger out of the light socket—to quickly withdraw from the presence of the Holy One out of the sheer terror of encountering His full reality. However, a deeper level of wisdom is expressed when we remain and become deeply connected to Him. In this case, **we become the lightbulb**. We have the knowledge and fear of the Lord, but we are so fully immersed in His nature and connected to Him that we become an expression of who He is on the earth.

**Paths of Ever Increasing Glory**

Michael Fickess