

The Gospel of Luke

The Need for a New Wineskin

Luke 5:33-39¹

Suggested Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:8

1. **Jesus Has His Piety Challenged** (v.33)

One of the ways that Jesus' contemporaries attempted to show off their piety was through publically acknowledged fasting. Fasting was nearly universally practiced by the serious minded and pious Jews of the day. Fasting at this time was largely ritualistic with an attitude of abasement or mourning (cf. Matt 6:16). Jesus' habit of not fasting had been noticed and He was being called to account (cf. Luke 7:33-34).

2. **Jesus Explains the Importance of His Presence** (vs.34-35)

Jesus does not respond to the accusation that His disciples do not pray because it was something that He modeled and they practiced (Matt 6:9-13; Matt 26:36). However, He does respond to the accusation that they do not fast, and the reason for their abstinence from fasting is that He was with them, and there is nothing for them to be sad about (cf. Matt 9:15) and it would be improper to force them to fast.

3. **Jesus Explains the Uniqueness of His Message** (vs.36-39)

A. **The Two Illustrations with One Primary Meaning:**

I. **Fixing an Old Garment with New Cloth** (v.36)

Fixing a garment with new or unshrunk cloth (cf. Matt 9:16) will not fix the hole in the original garment and it will also ruin the garment or cloth from which the patch was taken (cf. Matt 9:16; Mark 2:21).

II. **Putting New Wine in Old Wineskins** (vs.37-38)

When first made, a wineskin is pliable and able to withstand the internal effects of fermentation as well as the external wear and tear. After much use, the wineskin would become hard, cracked, and brittle. If it were used again in this condition, the skin would break and the wine would be lost.

B. **A Lasting Lament** (v.39)

The Pharisees, and others, who are long set and satisfied in their understanding of religion are not only unwilling to follow the new message of the gospel, but they are unwilling even to taste test it. The Gospel of Jesus Christ requires a new and dedicated wineskin (2 Cor 5:17; cf. Deut 10:16; 30:6; Jer 31:31-33; Ezek 11:19; 36:26).

¹ Parallel gospel accounts for this passage can be found in Matthew 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22.