**NEW Is Needed When …**

Matthew 9:14-17

June 22, 2025

**Introduction**

I like old things

Worn pair of dungarees Favorite ball cap Clock Hammer Hose

At some point new is needed when the old …

Wears out and can’t be repaired

No longer works like it was supposed to work

Something new comes along that is far better

I used to have a 1998 Honda Accord, I would still be driving but the frame rusted out

Today, Matthew 9:14-17, Jesus explains why the new message He brings is necessary

**Parallel Accounts**

Mk 2:18-22 154 words

Lk 5:33-39 174 words

Mt 9:14-17 127 words

Matthew and Mark are the same except Mark gives a little more detail.

Luke is similar to Matthew&Mark but also has four minor details, only one worth noting

Luke 5:39 adds ‘no one having drunk old wine desires new, the old is better’

**I. New Is Needed When The Right Question Is Asked 14**

A. Who asks the question

John = John the Baptist … Mt 3:1-12 John baptized Jesus Mt 3:13-17

John pointed His disciples to Jesus J1:35-37

John transitional to Jesus, John fulfills Malachi 3:1; 4:5, Mt11:9-10

Some of John’s disciples still known as Johns disciples in Ac 18:25 19:3

B. The right question

Why do we and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?

This is a good and fair question, right question to begin with

Lets take an excursus to understand

Excursus

Old Testament and fasting

Lev 16:29ff Day of Atonement, 7th month 10th day – the only required fast

Afflict [humble] your souls and do no work – taken 2mean fasting

2Sm12:23 David fasted when his son was taken ill

1Kn21:9ff hypocritical fasts, also Isaiah 58:3, Jer 14:12, Zc7:3 8:19

2Ch20:3 King Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast throughout Judah, Jon3:5

Ezra 8:21 Ezra on the plain of the river Ahava

Esther 4:16 Esther asking for support before she went to petition the King

Joel 1:14 Lord asking for fast of the elders

Fasting of the disciples of John and the Pharisees i.e. Jewish fasting in the first century

Lk18:12 fast twice a week!!!, Mt 6:16 gloomy face to be seen by men

Not saying they did it for the same reason, but I think this was the practice

Why the difference between the OT and the practice in Jesus’ day???

How fasting changed between the OT and Jesus’ day

Old Testament [~1446 to 440BC]

The Law The Writings the Prophets Bab. exile 605-535BC

Intertestamental [440BC to AD30], Also Called ‘400 silent years’

Sadducees Pharisees Scribes Chief priests Herodians Zealots

[Essenes – not mentioned in Scripture, known from DSS Qumran]

Out of these groups, the Jewish practice of fasting came about

The form of the Jewish religion sum of these groups ideas

Jesus and these intertestamental sects [AD30-33]

1. Jesus did not come to abolish the law and prophets but to fulfill Mt 5:17ff

2. the sects had morphed and moved away from OT & opposed JS 9:3,11

Righteousness…not let you enter the kingdom of heaven Mt5:20

Brood of vipers Mt12:34

Transgress commands of God for sake of their traditions Mt15:3

Draw near with mouths but their heart is far from God Mt15:8

Hypocrites Mt16:3 all of chapter 23

Making pretense with long prayers 23:14

Parse words 23:16-22

Paying tithe of herbs but missing … the weighty law 23:25

Wicked Mt 21:45

Clean outward part but inward full of greed/wickedness Lk11:39

So what in the OT was prescribed once a year and on rare extraordinary occasions

Had become 2Xwk in JS day and done w unwashed face i.e it was wrong

The original meaning and purpose were no longer recognizable in Jesus’ day

This was the ‘old’ that needed change, ‘new’ was needed

**II. New Is Needed And Comes With Jesus 15-17**

A. 1st reason - Jesus comes as a bridegroom 15

Time of celebration is a wedding feast, no one mourns at a wedding feast

ILLUS - Jesus is the groom, Jesus disciples are His friends

Jesus brings something new, not a time for grieving, mourning but rejoicing

Forgiveness of sin92, righteousness before God315, everlasting lifeJ1010

When the bridegroom leaves then His friends will mourn i.e. fast

So there will be a time and place for Jesus disciples to fast

B. 2nd reason - Jesus’ comes with teaching that is not a patch 16

The old system cannot be fixed with a ‘patch’

ILLUS - New patch on an old garment will tear the garment and destroy it

Jesus ‘new’ is not a patch to fix up the old

The problems with the old system coming down from all the sects are not

repairable with a patch

C. 3rd reason - Jesus’ comes with teaching that is new17

The old system cannot be fixed within the ‘old container’

ILLUS - wineskin with new wine. Wineskins can flex when they are new, they

expand with the gas produced by fermentation. But once expanded, they

lose their capacity to expand again as new wine would require

The problem with the old system is that Jesus is bringing new thoughts and these

will not be contained in the old system

Jesus brings the new covenant replaces the old covenant Jer 31:31

God had tried to get people back to the old path, the old covenant Jer6:16

They did not go, but rather developed a whole ritual system

Jesus came to get rid of that system with the new covenant in His blood

Righteousness inward in the heart and not only for show

Lessons

God did try to get His people back to the old paths. Jer 6:16

The Christian life is a feast not a funeral. [Wiersbe]

Jesus’ ministry brought in the New Covenant – see Jer 31

Jesus teaching is new. The old [Jewish traditions developed during the intertestamental

period] needed to be replaced with new teaching not patched up to get by.