

The New Wine of the Bridegroom | Mark 2:18–22

Spiritual pride engages in performative religious acts to appear more righteous than they are.

The fasting mentioned here was not in keeping with any Old Testament Law but with the rabbinical traditions of Judaism. There was nothing inherently wrong with the practice; however, the people's question and Jesus's words in the Sermon on the Mount reveals that it had become a source of spiritual pride among the people—a repeat of a past mistake of Israel's (cf. Matthew 6:16; Isaiah 58:4–5).

Sinful pride is the over infatuation with and desire for one's supposed excellence—and religion can be used by the enemy to ensnare people in spiritual pride in four ways (Gregory the Great):

- 1. Deceiving someone to think they possess righteousness from themselves.
- 2. Deceiving someone to think that God gave them righteousness because they earned it.
- 3. Deceiving someone to boast of possessing something they don't actually have.
- 4. Deceiving someone to elevate themselves over others by making it seem they have some righteousness that others lack.

We see elements of all four in the barbed question directed toward Christ.

Jesus is the bridegroom who restores and establishes his people in true righteousness.

Fasting is a discipline of denial and longing: a denying of the flesh in a longing for some good, such as the coming of the Messiah.

Jesus's answer is similar to his rebuke of Nicodemus whom Jesus said should have known better. It's inconceivable to think of fasting at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb; and it should have been inconceivable to think of fasting in the presence of Christ, the King.

Those who know the Scriptures would know that the coming of the bridegroom to restore his people would be a time for feasting, not fasting. The death and later ascension of the bridegroom—which this is the first time Jesus alludes to such things in Mark—would be the time when fasting would again be appropriate.

By identifying himself as the bridegroom who is taken away, Jesus is making a claim to be the Messianic suffering servant and the LORD himself who is the bridegroom of his people. (cf. Isaiah 53:8, 54:5, 10, 14)

When read in light of Isaiah, Jesus's reply, then, is much more than a rebuke; it's a royal announcement of the divine Messiah who has come to restore his people and establish them in righteousness through his suffering.

The gospel of the kingdom clothes people in the righteousness of Christ, washing them clean in the blood of the covenant—but the gospel cannot be an add on.

The old must pass away for the new to come.

Christ came to clothe people with the new garments of his righteousness and cleanse them by the new wine of the covenant in his blood (cf. Rev 7:9–10, 13–14).

But. . . the new garments of his righteousness could not be mixed with the old for it would tear it; the new wine would burst the old wineskins.

Like Nicodemus, these people needed to be made new, born again from above that they might enjoy the blessings of the New Covenant.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

Apply

If and when you fast, do it with the right heart and for the right reasons.

¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:17–18 ESV)

Choose the real thing over the performative.

If you're putting on to appear like something you're not, stop. Not only are you wasting your time, God is in direct opposition to you, for he opposes the proud.

Instead, walk in the true righteousness given to you in Christ and produced in you by the Spirit, for God cares far more about actual righteousness than the mere appearance of it.

⁶ "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, ¹⁰ if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. ¹¹ And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail." (Isaiah 58:6–11 ESV)

Sunday, October 4, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

55+ SUNDAY LUNCH
with JOHN BRADY

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
11:35 AM | GYM | \$10

This Sunday lunch gathering offers a meaningful opportunity to enjoy a meal together while hearing firsthand how God is at work around the world through global missions. Dr. John Brady, Vice President for Global Affairs at the IMB, will share timely insights, stories from the field, and encouragement to strengthen our vision for the Great Commission and inspire faithful engagement in God's mission.



Register on the App or mbchurch.com



FLANNEL & Frills

Father/Daughter dance for girls from birth to fifth grade

SUNDAY, OCT 25 * 5:30 PM * THEATER

Dress: Casual or Flannel for Fathers; Frilly & Girly for Daughters

**IF YOUR FATHER IS NOT ABLE TO COME,
INVITE YOUR FATHER FIGURE!**

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP ON THE APP OR MBCHURCH.COM

**55+ ALABAMA BAPTIST
SAINTS ALIVE ONE-DAY
CONFERENCE**

hosted by MeadowBrook

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:15 AM - 1:45 PM | COST: \$10



This one-day statewide event will feature uplifting gospel music from Karen Peck and New River and faithful gospel preaching by Pastor Randy and Edwin Jenkins. The event is free; no registration is required to attend. There is a \$10 on-campus lunch option available, but you must register and purchase in advance if you plan to have lunch. **Register on the App or mbchurch.com**



The Forge:
Father/Son Retreat
November 6-7
WorldSong Missions Place
\$45 Per Child / \$90 Per Adult
{ \$20 deposit per registrant }

Register on the App or mbchurch.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
4:00 pm - Global Missions Cohort - Round Room
6:30 pm - The Collective (Young Adults) - Theater

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
4:30 pm - Men's Bible Study - Conference Center

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
*(Swedish Meatballs, Baked Potatoes, Corn on the Cob,
Berry Salad, Rolls or Salad with a Protein;
Kids: Burgers, Chips & Cookies)*
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Wednesday Breakouts, Preschool Ministry,
KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship,
Worship Ministry Rehearsal

OCTOBER 9 - 16
Uganda Mission Trip

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

October 4 - Acts 4	October 8 - Acts 7:37-60
October 5 - Acts 5	October 9 - Acts 8
October 6 - Acts 6	October 10 - Acts 9
October 7 - Acts 7:1-36	



Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**,
we'd like to **CONNECT**
with you! Please fill out
a **CONNECTION CARD**
and stop by
GUEST CONNECTIONS
for a **FREE** gift!

life group

Life together for the
Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward
finding Christ-Centered
community at MeadowBrook
by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes,
pick up a Life Group booklet
at Guest Connections.



UGANDA MISSION TEAM

OCTOBER 9-16 🇺🇬 **Church Planter Training**

Pray the Lord would watch over the team and the church planters who are traveling to the training to get them there safely and back home.

Pray for clear communication skills during the training lessons, that the church planters would internalize the truths from God's Word that are being taught and apply them to their lives and ministry context.

Pray the Lord would use this training to strengthen the existing church in South Sudan and Uganda and further multiply faithful disciples of Jesus and local churches in both countries.



Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Janye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, David Hindsman

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Ivan Fike, Larry Parker

- Jim Brock and family in the loss of his mother
- Charlie Wells - UAB
- Aiden Barron, grandson of Will Alexander