



Luke 5:36-39

A New Philosophy of Ministry

Patches & Wineskins

* **NEW**



Jesus' Philosophy of Ministry

Jesus focuses our attention on what is new rather than what is old. The new cloth patch will not help the old garment; the new wine will rip the old wineskins. The old stands for the old institutions or the way things were when Jesus entered the scene. The new represents the functions and characteristics of the kingdom of God. Jesus says that the "new" is of such a quality that the old ways cannot support it. If one attempts to insert the new in the old, then there will be too many gaps and incompatibilities.

In verse 39 Jesus hints even stronger about the unwillingness for the guards of the old order to accept or tolerate the new. The new will be of such different characteristics that the old will reject the new. "No one, after drinking old wine wishes for new..." We can see the Pharisees, for example, finding objections to each thing that Jesus does. Notice verses 5:21, 30, 33, 6:2.

Was Jesus referring to:

- New kinds of leaders?
- New organizations and institutions?
- New thought patterns?
- New spiritual disciplines?
- New?

Questions & Discussion

* Why couldn't Jesus use the old ways? Didn't these new teachings originate from the Old Testament?

* How is the church guilty of putting new wine in old wineskins?

* How can the church improve her focus on the kingdom business, that is, those things of the new order?

Threatened!

New things produce insecurity because we are unsure of our place in the new order since we don't believe in it. The Pharisees no doubt felt threatened at Jesus' popularity.

36 And He was also telling them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old.

37 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined.

38 "But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.
39 "And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good enough.'"

Jesus replaced the Old Covenant with a New Covenant. We must understand that Jesus was living out the truth of the Old Testament but that the Jews restrained God's truth in their own institutions and laws.

Legalism and immorality. We try putting the new into the world's means. It just doesn't work. Discipleship means one has to die to the old. We start from scratch building upon the foundation of Christ's Words.

We need to awaken to our task of bringing the Gospel to the world. We are not just trying to be accepted by the world but to initiate something wholly new. We should not be afraid of being different than the world. We definitely should have a vision that goes far beyond working through existing structures.