

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 25 September 2022

Sermon Title : Parables of Jesus – The New Wine of Revival

Speaker : Rev Shannon Chan

Text : Matthew 9:16-17

INTRODUCTION

This will be the last instalment in the “Parables of Jesus” sermon series. The two parables in Matthew 9:16-17 were told by Jesus in response to questions by the Pharisees and disciples of John the Baptist on why Jesus and His disciples did not fast like John’s disciples and the Pharisees. It implied that Jesus and His disciples were not as spiritual.

Mixing the old and the new? (Matthew 9:16)

1. Jesus brings the new garment (9:16)

- The Pharisees and scribes insisted that Jesus conforms to their traditions and religious laws.
- He critiqued pharisaical religion: the man-made religious traditions that had come to overshadow or exceed the Old Testament.
- To take a patch from a new garment and sew it to an old garment will ruin both of them.

In the Bible, garments are sometimes used to picture character and conduct (eg. Col 3:8-17). The prophet Isaiah wrote about the robe of righteousness and warned against trusting our own good works for our salvation.

Warren Wiersbe, a well-known writer, suggests that many people have a patchwork religion of their own making instead of trusting Christ for the robe of salvation that He gives by grace.

Sometimes we think we may not be good enough for God so we patch here and there, to try to improve on it but not realizing that our salvation, our righteousness, actually comes from Jesus.

Jesus comes and He clothes us with His righteousness.

2. Jesus brings the new wineskin (9:17)

- When unfermented wine is put into old wineskins, the gas will burst the old skins and both the skins and the wine will be lost.
- Gospel Kingdom and Kingdom values cannot be contained in the old wineskin of Judaism.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

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- Jesus announced the ancient Jewish religion would soon be replaced by the gospel Kingdom and Kingdom values. (Mark 1:15)

It was not until AD 70 when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the people were scattered, that the Jewish religion as described in the law came to an end. Wiersbe reminds us that today, the Jews do not have a priesthood - they do not have a temple, nor an altar so they cannot practise their religion as their ancestors did.

The things in the ceremonial law were actually fulfilled by Jesus Christ when He came so there is no longer any need today for altar sacrifices, no need for priests to make sacrifices on their behalf, no need for temple and no need for ceremonies.

All of God's people are priests under the New Covenant. The New Covenant kicked off when Jesus died on the cross and rose again. The New Covenant came in and all of God's people since then are priests, the priesthood of all believers. God's people, being priests, bring spiritual sacrifices to the Lord. The tablets of the law that have been part of ancient Judaism have been replaced by the tablet of the human heart, where God's Spirit is writing upon and making us be like Jesus Christ.

If you put your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are a new creation. Jesus is making all things new, including you. As the Physician, He offers us new life and spiritual health. As the Bridegroom, He brings everlasting love and joy.

Jesus brings a new wineskin - the new wineskin of the Kingdom and Kingdom values and He make us a new creation through it.

3. Jesus brings the new wine (9:17)

- The Bible uses wine in a wide variety of ways.
- After Jesus returned to Heaven, the Holy Spirit was given, so the new wine entails more than forgiveness, but also is tied to the blood of the Passover, the New Covenant, and the receipt of God's Spirit (David Grabbe)

The Bible uses wine in a variety of ways - it can represent a drug, a blessing, a drink offering, a symbol of intoxication or of abundance. Today, wineskin can be seen as a/an: type of vessel; vessels are symbols for people; "old person" or "new person".

What it means for Christians

For Christians the old person represents the life we had before conversion and the new person, the new vessel, is the life that comes because of conversion. If we take the dynamic new wine thinking and we attempt to put that into the old life we can be sure that we are going to have a disaster on our hands. (Why?) Our old lives, our old ways are entirely incompatible with the new wine. Under the New Covenant:

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- The new wine of the Holy Spirit requires change, expansion, and steady improvement, while in the old life, there is no real desire or ability to change.
- Walking in newness of life means living and thinking the Christian way.
- ❖ **Revival starts with each one of us individually.**

Francis Chan, an American pastor, spoke about how end time sins are in the church and how many Christians are very casual about some of God's commands - casual to the point they ignore it and decide that they can make their own decisions about what to think of God's command. He referred to what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

- ❖ **The Holy Spirit is vital and essential for any lasting revival to take place.**

Why Revival Tarries

What is Revival actually?

“Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you” – (Psalm 85:6)

- From a biblical perspective, the word **revive** is directed towards the condition of a person's spirit, a person's heart or a person's well-being.
- The word revive in Hebrew means to live prosperously, to cause to grow and have life. It refers to the Godly restoration of life and well-being into God's original design.

Revival is always about cold hearts being lit aglow and transformed as they encounter the love and goodness of God. It is often accompanied by manifestations of signs by the Holy Spirit.

- ❖ **2 Essential Foundations for Revival (Robert Solomon) – Scripture and Holiness** – this is based on John Wesley's call to spread “scriptural holiness”.

Adding to this, perhaps as a quadrilateral to the new wine of Holy Spirit Revival:

- **Preaching with unction**
- **Praying with the Spirit's inspiration and tears**

- ❖ **The secret to Christian leadership**

“Bent knees, wet eyes, and a broken heart.” – Stephen Olford

CONCLUSION

May the Lord break the hearts of His church. We need to be daily on our knees before God seeking out what His heart is for our city and for the nation. May we be so moved by the brokenness of the people here that it moves us to tears. May we weep first for our own sins and brokenness, and weep too for the sins and brokenness of others. God is doing a great work in our city. We may not notice it and sometimes we do not see the hand of God but He is inviting us to join Him in what He is doing. We can only

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be effective in our calling only if we approach God on bent knees, with wet eyes and a broken heart.

A. Review Sermon Application

Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk!?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2. Appoint someone to read Matthew 9:16-17 slowly.

Reflect on your current standing with God. How is your life as a new creation after conversion different from your old person before conversion?

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B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

3. Jesus brings the new garment of salvation.
 - a. In what ways are you like the Pharisees holding on to man-made traditions or religious practises even after conversion? Why?
 - b. Do you sometimes practise patchwork religion when you feel you are not good enough for God and try to gain salvation yourself instead of trusting in the salvation Christ offers by His grace?
 - (i) Do you desire the new wine of revival for your life?
 - (ii) What is one thing you need to do for this revival to take place?

- 4a. All of God's people are priests under the New Covenant. How should God's priesthood of believers be different from others in the world today?
- 4b. Why do you think revival tarries in our church?
- 4c. The new wine of the Holy Spirit requires change, expansion, and steady improvement. What can you or your small group do to receive the new wine of the Holy Spirit so revival can happen in our church?

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C. Testimonies, Prayer and Action

Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.

5. Share your personal testimony on how you experienced a personal revival in your life and the difference it made to your spiritual growth.

OR

Give thanks to God for the new wine of the Holy Spirit that helps you to walk in newness of life, living and thinking the Christian way.

6. As a group, seek the leading of the Holy Spirit in your daily lives as you live out God's purposes for you. Ask God to soften your hearts so that you may approach Him on bent knees, wet eyes and a broken heart to weep first for your own sins and brokenness, and then too for the sins and brokenness of others so cold hearts will lit aglow and be transformed as they encounter the love and goodness of God.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. You Hold it All Together – Maverick City https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t_ROjJyg48
2. A Thousand Hallelujahs – Hillsong https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vR_sl9lkowA
3. Heart of A Servant – City Harvest Church <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yK-gwUzBRbc>

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