

New Wineskins (Matt. 9:14-17)

- John's disciples once criticized Jesus' disciples for their lack of mourning and fasting.
- Jesus then answered with two parables illustrating how John's disciples were stuck in an old way of thinking and old covenant.
- Jesus' disciples were onto the new thing, the good news.
- In that day, wine was kept in goat-skin flasks. New wine which would expand on fermentation required new wineskins that would stretch.
- God ordained change is good! Trying to stick to old ways when God ordains change makes a mess—like a wineskin exploding.

Change is good

- There is a season for everything (Eccl. 3).
- God has a good plan for us (Jer. 29:11).
- Jesus' character stays the same, even when we need to change things (Heb. 13:8).
- The change is never wholesale. Wine is still wine, even when the recipe is tweaked.
- Big changes have been part of Living Waters' history.

Why transition will be good for us

1. We are healthy
 - a. Our united heart is strong.
 - b. We know we aren't perfect and this is a strength.
2. We have a vibrant life together
 - a. Vibrancy requires change and growth for all living things.
3. We are reliant on the Spirit
 - a. God's heart is what we listen to before we listen to our own.
4. We are hopeful
 - a. We have faith that God's plan is good for us.
5. We are expectant
 - a. We have always stepped out in faith.
 - b. The best is yet to come.
6. We have a great team
 - a. Our ministry team has grown and is well equipped.
 - b. Our congregation and ministry team are a family, put together by God for a time such as this.
 - c. Change isn't just going to happen to us, it will happen through us.

Discussion Questions

- Have you had an experience of change that, while it appeared scary at first, turned out for the better? Describe it.
- Why do we tend to resist change?
- Are you someone who loves or hates change? Why?
- What are the possible benefits for change? In Living Waters' community?