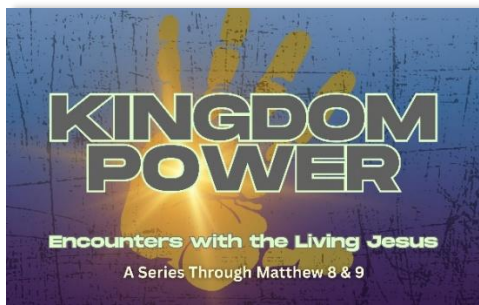




## **Sermon Notes: "Party Crasher"**

Matthew 9:14-17

11.2.25

### **1. The Kingdom of God Is a Wedding, Not a Funeral (v. 14-15a)**

- The appropriate response to Jesus isn't grim religious duty - it's JOY.

### **2. The Kingdom of God Can't Be Contained by Old Religious Structures (v. 16-17)**

- **The Cloth Patch:** You can't just add Jesus to your existing religious system like a patch on old clothes. He is not here to slightly improve Judaism. He is bringing something entirely new!
- **The Wineskins:** Gods Kingdom is dynamic, alive, and expanding—like fermenting wine. The old religious structures were, and still can be, rigid and can't contain it. We need entirely new wineskins!

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## **So What?**

### **1. There is "Already/Not Yet" Tension (v. 15b)**

The Christian life includes BOTH:

- **Feasting** - because the Kingdom has come, we've tasted grace, the Bridegroom has won us.
- **Fasting** - because we long for His return, we groan with creation, the wedding isn't fully consummated yet.

### **2. You Can't Mix Old and New Covenant Realities**

The Danger of Mixing:

- a. You destroy the Gospel (the wine spills out)
- b. You destroy yourself (the wineskins burst)

**Are You Trying to Patch Your Life or Be Made New? / Are You Flexible Enough for New Wine?**

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## **For Study, Reflection, Discussion:**

**Life Group ICEBREAKER:** *Think about a time when you tried to fix something the cheap/easy way (a quick patch job, duct tape, a shortcut) instead of doing it right. What happened? Did the quick fix work, or did it make things worse?*

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

### **READ: Matthew 9:9-13**

2. (verse 14) John the Baptist's disciples were fasting because their teacher was in prison and they were in a season of mourning. The Pharisees fasted twice a week as a badge of spirituality. Why do you think they were confused by Jesus and His disciples feasting instead of fasting? What does this reveal about how they measured spiritual maturity?
3. (verse 15) Jesus called Himself "the Bridegroom"—which in the Old Testament always referred to God Himself. What is Jesus claiming about His identity by using this imagery? Why is the appropriate response to the Bridegroom's presence JOY rather than somber religious duty?
4. (verse 16) Jesus uses the illustration of patching old clothes with new cloth. He's saying you can't just "add Jesus" to your existing religious system or lifestyle—He's bringing something entirely new. What does it look like in modern life when people try to "patch" Jesus onto their old way of living instead of letting Him make them completely new? (See also 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 3:3)
5. (verse 17) Darin said, "God's Kingdom is dynamic, alive, and expanding. We need to stay flexible and fresh." What are some ways churches or individual Christians can become "old wineskins"—rigid and resistant to how God wants to move? (See also Acts 2:1-4, Romans 12:2)

### **Deploy:**

FEAST - Celebrate the Bridegroom (Joy)

- Take time this week to intentionally celebrate what Jesus has done for you: Write down 10 things you're grateful for about your relationship with Jesus.

BE FLEXIBLE - Stay Fresh for New Wine (Responsiveness)

- Identify one area where you've become "rigid" spiritually and surrender it to God: Is there a way you're resisting how God might want to move in your life?

### **Don't Forget:**

- **Women's Night Out – Thursday, Nov 20, 6:30 pm – Making Christmas Ornaments (Please note: This is the THIRD Thurs instead of the usual fourth Thursday so as to not conflict with Thanksgiving.)**
- **Potluck after service – November 30<sup>th</sup>**
- **Candlelight service – December 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:15 pm**

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, thank You that You're the Bridegroom and we're invited to the wedding feast!

Forgive us for treating Christianity like a funeral instead of a celebration. Help us stop trying to "patch" Jesus onto our old lives—make us completely NEW. We don't want to be old wineskins, rigid and resistant. Make us NEW wineskins—flexible, responsive, and ready for whatever You want to do.

Show us where we're clinging to old patterns and give us courage to surrender them. Do a NEW work in our lives this week.

In Jesus' name, Amen.