

Luke Chapter 5

V: 1 The people pressed upon Him, crowding around Him, to hear the word of God, trying to get close – He was probably getting pushed out towards the water.

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

Psalms 42:1 “As the deer panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”

V: 2-3 Jesus was intent on continuing to teach and to give the people the word so He took advantage of the boats that were just sitting there waiting to be used.

- Upon request, Simon – later to be Simon Peter pushed out a little to give Jesus a little room to be heard – and just like in a synagogue, Jesus sat down to teach.

V: 4-5 After finishing the teaching, Jesus turns His attention to Peter, Jesus had somewhat commandeered Peter’s boat, now He’s going to be compensated – God will be a debtor to no man.

- “Let down your net for a catch.” Peter responds that they’ve already tried with no success, but because you say so I will.

Matthew 19:26 “... with God all things are possible.”

V: 6-7 This is an excellent illustration of what man can do vs: what God can do.

John 15:5 “... apart from Me you can do nothing.”

- They catch / are given more than two boats can handle – that is how God blesses!

Ephesians 3:20 “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

V: 8-11 Seeing the miracle that Jesus had performed, knowing that it was a miracle considering his night of toil, having just heard an excellent Bible study by Jesus.

- Peter may not have come to the full realization that Jesus is God, but he knows for certain that Jesus is a holy man of God. James and John come to the same conclusion.

Matthew 4:18-22 ¹⁸“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into

the sea: for they were fishers. ¹⁹And He saith unto them, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. ²⁰And they straightway left their nets, and followed Him.”

- Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, and John all get to shore, seeing the great catch of fish – with an appreciation of the value of the catch – and walk away from it, in fact they pretty much walk away from everything.

“... they forsook all, and followed Him.”

Luke 5: 28 Levi / Matthew “And he left all, rose up, and followed Him.”

Philippians 3:8 “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”

- It’s a matter of making the comparison, evaluating which is more important, and making the right choice – which they did.

V: 12 **Map** - Luke next records Jesus’ encounter with a leper, this takes place just after completing the sermon on the mount at the Mount of Beatitudes, probably entering Capernaum.

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Parallel account:

Matthew 8:1-2 “¹When He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ²And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.”

- There is a big crowd around Jesus, and here comes this leper.

“Leper” – **Leprosy = type of sin, analogy.**

Isaiah 1:5-6 “⁵Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. ⁶From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

- **We’re all leprous. Romans 3:10, 23.**
- A modern day equivalent might be AIDS / Poison oak...

- “Leprosy” = “smitten” in Hebrew.

Leviticus ch. 13 describes leprosy and its effects. (turn with me to...)

- **Lev. 13:3** leprosy / sin: More than skin deep.
- **Lev. 13:8** leprosy / sin: It spreads.
- **Lev. 13:46** leprosy / sin: It separates.
- **Lev. 13:52** leprosy / sin: Is only fit for the fire. It leads to a very warm place, wailing, gnashing of teeth. **Romans 6:23**

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

- That is us, apart from Jesus, apart from the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ we’re all just a bunch of walking puss buckets, full of filth, and iniquity.
- Seeing ourselves, seeing our sin. We should want to gag and throw up.

Romans 12:9 “... abhor (utterly detest) what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

- John Newton: Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
- Talmud’s (Jewish commentary on the Law) listing of “defilements”:
#1 is death. #2 is leprosy.

Leprosy described: (in more clinical terms)

1. Skin takes on a hard, glossy appearance.
 2. Open running sores.
 3. Progressive / spreads, nerves become numb, “de-sensitized”.
 4. Living gangrene.
 5. Face swells, develops folds, lion like appearance, nose disappears.
 6. Decaying dead odor can be smelled from over 100’ away.
 7. Incurable, progressive, can take up to 30 years to kill you.
- Upon being diagnosed with leprosy the individual became an automatic outcast. (Division / separation)

Outcast: You can almost see how it would play out. Working in a field and the initial discovery. Attempted treatment, no progress or healing. Seen by a priest, diagnosed and immediately separated from wife, children, family, and friends. No farewells, no hugs goodbye, quarantined.

- If a leper was able to travel and came within sight of another non-leper they were to call out “un-clean, unclean” to warn others to stay away.
- If they came into a town or village and were recognized as a leaper they would be driven out with stones. They were not allowed to live within a walled city.

As Christians we can be all too comfortable with sin.

- Just like the leper who is losing the nerve endings and ability to sense or feel we too can become de-sensitized.
- Sometimes the way this happens is through the things we expose ourselves to.
- Violent or profane movies, video games that portray bad things, music that glorifies or breeds acceptance of bad behavior, all things that mimic the world.

Cow pies: testimony -

- Pastor's son – Oregon – window – outside – hands / forearms – joy & delight.
- To those who knew better it was disgusting & revolting.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;”

1 Corinthians 13:11 “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

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- And yet we read that this leper this leper risked the crowd and approached Jesus.
 - This leper asked for healing in spite of the “rules”.

James 4:2b “... yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”

- Matthew's Gospel states that this leper “*came and worshipped Him...*”
- “Worshipped”, this word for worship is specific and only used for the worship of God.
- Notice the order: worship / humility; right heart; petition / request; response.

Saying, Lord, if Thou wilt / if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

- The leper didn't question God's ability to heal him, he questioned [if it was God's will to heal him](#).

“Clean” – (G2513) . katharos; clean (lit. or fig.), clear, pure.

V: 13 Jesus touched him – sin – our hearts, when no one else could or would. (Jer. 17:9 / Heb. 4:12)

Hebrews 4:15 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- Ben Hur: mother’s leprosy transferred to Jesus on the cross.

Isaiah 53:4-5 “⁴Surely he hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

Why?

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

- When Jesus touched him, it wasn’t a timid, tentative, pokey kind of a touch.
- I love a good hand shake.
- I love talking to the students in our Youth Group just like I would my own children and often times I will put my hand on their shoulder and speak to them.
- To me this communicates a love, a tenderness, a connection of sorts and honestly this is how I feel when God communicates to me, like His child.
- His hand on my shoulder, speaking in comfortable, loving tones into the deepest parts of my heart.
- I think that this is how Jesus spoke to this leper –
- **Please note the chronology: Jesus touched him first, and then He spoke to him.**
- Sometimes it is the touch of our Lord, through His servants in practical ways that enables His children to hear those words of healing, and cleansing: (Bay St. Louis).
- Then Jesus spoke the words that the leper hoped and needed to hear:

“I will, be thou clean”

John 15:3

John 15:3 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

Ephesians 5:26 “That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word.”

John the Baptist said it:

John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world!”

- Put your eyes on Jesus, keep your eyes on Jesus – and He will clean you up.
- Jesus never said “no” to anyone in need. He always ministered to the one with the greatest need.
- And to the greatest need – cleansing, forgiveness, restoration of our relationship with God.

“immediately” –

Matthew 14:31 “And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt.”

V: 14-15 *“Tell no man”*

Mark 1:45 – he told everybody!

Mark 1:45 “But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to Him from every quarter.”

- There was also a crowd of people, a great multitude all around Him when this happened.
- Why would Jesus say that, why would He not want it known about?

Answer: 1. Not a magic show. 2. Possibly timing issue. (Moses / sign)

“Show the priest”

- A testimony to the priest who had probably already seen him so that he would see that God was working miracles in Israel.
- A testimony to one who would appreciate it.

“... shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded”

Leviticus 14:1-7 describes the ceremony of cleansing of a leper / sinner.

- In this we see a model of Jesus in the Old Testament, and the only cure for sin.

Leviticus 14:1-2 “¹And the Lord spake unto Moses saying, ²this shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing: he shall be brought unto the priest:”

Leviticus 14:3a “^{3a}And the priest shall go forth out of the camp;”

Heb. 4:14 “seeing then that we have a great High Priest, ... Jesus the Son of God.” Who was crucified outside of the camp.

Leviticus 14:3b-7 “^{3b}And the priest shall look, and, behold, if the plague of leprosy be healed in the leper; ⁴Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, (doves) and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop: (ingredients Passover / Cross) ⁵And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel (Jesus) over running water (Holy Spirit): ⁶As for the living bird, (us) he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water: (washed in the blood of the lamb) ⁷And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field.”

John 8:31-32 “³¹If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:36 “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

- This law had been on the books for 1500 years and had not been used.

“... go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.”

- Many priests came to believe in Jesus.

John 12:42 “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue.”

Acts 6:7 “And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

- The same is true for us today, when people see our lives changed, cleaned up – and when we give glory to God, when we testify of the shed blood of Jesus – others will come to faith – others will be healed as well.
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V: 16 After ministering to the needs of many you would think He'd turn in for a good night's sleep, needing rest – but what He sought was refreshment in the presence of His Father.

- He may have been praying in part because He knew that He was about to face a spiritual battle with the religious leaders, and because there would be other needs to be met.

Luke 11:1 “And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”

V: 17 Jesus is teaching, and as has been previously noted the people have remarked that no one has ever taught like this with such authority – and now the religious leaders are taking in the teaching, perhaps they are curious about what they've heard: Pharisees & doctors of the Law, probably scribes.

- “The power of the Lord was present to heal them...” – not speaking of the man with palsy in the next few verses, but the healing of the religious leaders who's hearts had been hardened to the Word of God, towards Jesus.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 “¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. ¹²Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. ¹³And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

Ezekiel 36:26 “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”

John 12:42 “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:”

V: 18-26 Describe the teaching and miracle of the man with palsy being healed.

Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke.

- Composite picture from three accounts, details.

Matthew 9:1-8

Paralytic
Brought by others on a bed.
Be of good cheer / Sins forgiven
Scribes / blasphemers
Knew their thoughts – evil.
(What was evil about them?)
Explanation / take up bed and go.
Marveled & glorified God.

Mark 2:3-12

Carried by 4 men.
Un-covered roof & lowered down.
Jesus saw their faith.
Son your sins are forgiven you.
Amazed, glorified God.

Luke 5:17-26

As He was teaching, Pharisees sitting by.
Power of the Lord present to heal them.
They did whatever they had to do to get to God.
Praising God and filled with fear.

V: 18-19 Mark's Gospel tells us that there were 4 men carrying their friend.

Mark 2:3 “And they came unto Him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.” (4+...)

- “sick of the palsy...” The end result of VD, debilitating, a locking up and fusing of the various joints, physically very painful, yet leaving the mind in tact.
- Finding no other way, they got up on top of the house and removed a portion of the roof and lowered him down before Jesus.
- Capernaum / Peter's house – Lord all that I have is yours – sometimes He takes us up on that!
- Overall this scene looks like pallbearers lowering their friend, a dead man into the grave, but he comes into contact with Jesus and is resurrected!

John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

V: 20 “*Their*” faith” Who's faith is that? Those who carried the paralytic as opposed to the paralytic himself, may have included him also.

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

- Their hope was that their friend might be healed, the paralytic certainly hoped for that.
- Their actions were proof / evidence as to their certainty that Jesus was able to do this.
- Jesus always dealt with the greatest need first; in this case the greatest need was the “sin problem”.

Doctrine of forgiveness: unique to Christianity.

Psalms 32:1-2 “¹Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”

Proverbs 28:13 “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”

V: 21-22 The religious leaders are thinking as opposed to saying.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- This is a demonstration of the omniscience – the all knowingness of God.

Psalms 147:5 “Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite.”

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!”

- Jesus knows their thoughts, and their thoughts are evil.

Matthew 9:4 “And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?”

- Possibly like blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, their thoughts were at the least a denial of the deity of Jesus, they were even a refutation of the witness of the Holy Spirit
- At the very least they are judging God, and they are being un-merciful and un-loving.

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doeth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?”

- Matthew & Mark both state in effect: “... who is this man that speaketh blasphemies?”
- If Jesus had said “in the name of God you are forgiven...” they might have been ok, but Jesus assumed the power and authority of God personally in His statement.
- They were right in a way, only God can forgive sins.

Psalms 51:4 “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.”

Blasphemy: 1. impious (un-pious) utterance or action concerning God or sacred things.
2. an act of cursing or reviling God.

- Blasphemy: is a transliteration of a Greek word meaning literally "to speak harm."

- In the biblical context, blasphemy is an attitude of disrespect that finds expression in an act directed against the character of God.
- In this case from their perspective, Jesus is usurping the privilege or power of God to forgive, or implying His own deity in that He is able to forgive, something that only God can do.

V: 23 Which is easier? *Are you kidding, they are both impossible for us!*

- Jesus has the power to say, “be healed”, or “live!”
- He also has not just the ability to say “you are forgiven”, He has the right to say it because of His sacrifice for us.

V: 24 So that they would know that His words were not just mere words: this is intended to be instructive to all of them.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful,…”

- When God speaks, things happen.

Genesis 1:3 “And God said, let there be light: and there was light.”

- Once the 1st problem is addressed, and it is regardless of what anyone else might think it really is.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- Then the 2nd problem / physical problem is also addressed and used as a qualifier; validating His authority and who He was representing.
- Like the healed demoniac at Gadera, he is told to go to his house – where real testimonies are lived out and observed by those who can appreciate it the most.
- God’s commandments are His enablements. He won’t command us to do something that we can’t do.

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

V: 25 “Immediately” he rose up, simple obedience – vindication, validation, proof: who can forgive sins? Only God can do that. He left “glorifying God”, he knew.

- Who can cause the lame to walk, the blind to see? Only God can do that!

V: 26 They were all “amazed” and glorified God. marveled.

- Jesus’ actions always pointed to the Father, consistent with His teaching, with God’s word, that all works were to bring glory be to God.

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

- Notice that it doesn’t read – and they all believed... the miracles simply validate the authority of the messenger to speak for God.

Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

- There are many other instances where Jesus spoke – and people believed.
- Often times miracles excite us, and they should, but our faith isn’t based on the emotion of the event, but on the word of God, which is the anchor to our soul.

V: 27-28 Matthew – “Levi”, a Levite but not acting “priestly”.

- “**Matthew**” (Jesus re-names him in Ch. 6) “**The gift of Yahweh**”. As we’ll see Matthew went from being a curse to being a blessing.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

- **Tax Collectors**: were hated individuals, they were considered collaborators with the Roman government, even Jesus used them as bad examples.
 1. Collecting taxes in Capernaum, a major trade route between Egypt and Damascus.
 2. This must have been very lucrative.
 3. The Romans had a number of different taxes and the tax collectors were very imaginative.
- There was the Roman pole tax, this was an across the board tax that applied to every Roman subject, just for being alive, for breathing Roman air – a flat rate tax that applied to every person.
- There was a 10% income tax, 10% of your crops or 10% of the proceeds from the sale of your crops.
- There were taxes for transporting goods from one area to another, road tax, customs, how many axels or wheels on your cart.

- There was the minimum requirement to the Roman government; but anything beyond that which they could collect they were allowed to keep, almost encouraging gouging the people and being dishonest – they were notoriously rich and universally hated.

But Jesus said: “**Follow Me.**”

- Matthews’s actions spoke for him, he voted with his feet, and with his heart.
- He left all – in his heart, then rose up and followed Jesus

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

- Moving forward with Jesus almost always means leaving other things behind, leaving a past life, possessions, relationships, the cares of the world.

Philippians 3:7-8 “⁷But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yea doubtless, and I count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”

- Matthew doesn’t wait or hesitate, the time is now.

2 Corinthians 6:2 “For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

V: 29 Throughout the Gospels with see Jesus in 3 different settings.

1. We see Jesus in open / public places – teaching, preaching, and healing.
2. We see Jesus in quiet solitary places communing with the Father, praying.
3. We see Jesus in somebody’s home often with large groups, and diverse groups, Pharisees, tax collectors, fishermen – enjoying a good meal.

Matthew takes Jesus home – shouldn’t we all!

- Many publicans / sinners. (Matthew 9). No one else would be their friend!
- Later on we’ll read about Zacchaeus (Luke 19), a tax collector who also hosts Jesus and a bunch of sinners – and the religious leaders murmured the same thing then as well.

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.”

- Matthew opened that door and invited Jesus in!

V: 30-32 The religious leaders “murmur” / complain about their eating with “sinners”.

There weren't any other options:

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

- Doctor Jesus came to heal the sick, and to pay the bill!

Luke 15:11-32 Prodigal son – two brothers.

- No categories of sin, they all lead to the same place, and apart from Jesus we're all headed there.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- We tend to look at different sins with varying degrees of judgment: but they are all the same.
- Culturally: a meal with someone was “Koinonia” – fellowship in a deep sense, becoming one with someone through food, sharing, double dipping, etc.
- Jesus is breaking with tradition, He's violating their social taboos in sitting down to a meal with publicans and sinners.

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- Jesus didn't come for the righteous, but for the unrighteous, Jesus came to minister to those in need, but not all recognized their need.

Romans 3:10 “For there is none righteous, no not one.”

- Our righteousness is actually “self-righteousness” it isn't of God:

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

V: 33-35 (Matthew) Disciples of John & Pharisees. The question, not necessarily hostile, possibly self righteous: “why do we and the Pharisee’s fast often – but your disciples don’t?”

- By challenging the disciple’s behavior they are challenging the teacher, or the teaching.
- In the O/T, fasting was a sign of mourning, in the N/T it is indicative of self denial or chastening.
- “Children of the bride chamber” = wedding guests stayed for a week long during the “honey moon” / party time. They were children of the bride & groom, the “King & Queen”.
- Bridegroom = Jesus.

Psalm 16:11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

- In the presence of the Groom there was to be joy and celebration – because they are with Him.
- The High Priest wasn’t allowed to show grief – because he’d been in the presence of the Lord.
- Nehemiah Chapters 1-2: Nehemiah was a cup-bearer to Artaxerxes, the king.

Nehemiah 2:2 “Wherefore the king said unto me, why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid...”

- The days are coming – when I’m gone – that fasting and self denial will be appropriate.

Mark 8:34 “... whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

V: 36-39 Dealing with either cotton or wool for clothing, they made everything oversized because they knew that when they washed it – it would shrink greatly.

- Everything was shrink to fit. To put a patch of new cloth on an old garment with a tear would just make the tear worse.
- Jesus came to give us spiritual wholeness, not just to patch us up.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in

righteousness: ¹⁷that the man of God may be perfect / complete, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

2 Peter 1:2-3 ²“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

- The traditions of the Pharisees and Scribes had become old and dry, like old wine skins, rigid, brittle, and in-flexible. As Jesus brought new life, their old concepts and traditions weren't capable of containing it, Jesus' teachings pretty well blew their traditions apart.
- Old & new; Law & Grace.

John 1:17 “For the Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

V: 39 The old is better: Some people are more interested in what God did 500 years ago than in what He is doing and wanting to do today. We can get stuck in our traditions and not be attuned to the Spirit of God and His leading.

- How do we keep from getting stuck in traditions, how do we keep ourselves flexible and usable to whatever the Lord might want to do both personally and corporately?
- We immerse ourselves in the word, we soak ourselves in the word of God – we allow the Word to be our priority in life, the emphasis of our ministry – and it will have a softening effect in our lives, a renewing effect in us.
- When the Word of God is no longer our focus and priority; when traditions take the pre-eminence we become dry and rigid.

Revelation 21:5 “... behold, I make all things new....”

Jeremiah 31:31 “Behold, the days are come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.”