

Patches and Wineskins

(Conformity or Transformation)

Luke 5:33-39

33 And they said to him, “The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink.”

34 And Jesus said to them, “Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?”

35 The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.”

36 He also told them a parable: “No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old.

37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed.

38 But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.

39 And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good.’”

Jesus uses three images

- A wedding.
- Cloth patching.
- Wineskins.

Patches

- Covers up stuff.
- Justifies behavior without changing actions.
- Makes you comfortable by delaying change.

Old Cloth

I know I'm not living right.

I have my bad habits.

I feel offended by others.

New Patch

I will straighten it out this year.

I feel better talking about it.

I should avoid them.

Old Wine

Is dormant.

Usually have history.

People are used to it.

New Wine

Still changing.

Has no history.

Comes with freshness.

When do we have to change?

- When we are servants to sin. (*Romans 6:1-7*)
- When we do not obey God's commandments. (*1John 2:4*)
- When we hate our brothers and sisters. (*1John 2:9-11*)
- When we love the things of this world. (*1John 2:15*)
- When we conform to the world. (*Romans 12:1-2*)