

THE NEW AND LIVING WAY (Mark 2:18-22)

May 12, 2024

TEXT—Mark 2:18-22

MAIN IDEA—Through Christ alone, God has given a new and living way to know and enjoy Him.

MEMORY VERSE—2 Cor.

5:17-19

FASTING AND THE BRIDEGROOM (Mark 2:18-

20)

The Accusation (V18)—

The religious leaders opposed Jesus by implying that his disciples aren't holy enough because they didn't fast like John's disciples or the Pharisees.

*Fasting is going without food or drink in order to seek God. Fasting was sometimes done as a sign of distress, grief or repentance. David fasted after hearing Saul & Jonathan died- **2 Sam. 1:12**; Jehoshaphat called Israel to fast when they were opposed by the Moabites and Ammonites-**2 Chron. 20:3**. The Law required fasting for the annual Day of Atonement (**Lev. 16:29-31**). Yet during the NT times the stricter Pharisees fasted twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays outwardly showing how holy they were (**Lk. 18:12**).

Eph. 2:8-9; Jn. 14:6

The Answer (V19-20)—A Jewish wedding

feast was a very joyful celebration, sometimes lasting for a week. To fast during such a time of great joy would be unthinkable. Jesus the Bridegroom was present and his disciples were his guests. His presence among them and the salvation He brought was all the reason they needed for celebration. Yet after He gave his life on the cross, it would be appropriate to fast and seek God.

Jn. 10:10; Ps. 16:11; Heb. 10:19-22; Matt. 6:16-18; Is. 58:6-10

***Check with a Dr. to insure that your health is in the place to do a fast. *Start small a breakfast (in exchange for extended time in prayer and the word). *You can fast a habit, or hobby for a time (like no technology/ TV/ media etc. for half a day or a 24 hour period) to seek God in the word and prayer for an extended time. Drink water and or juice. *Ease your way back into eating coming off of the fast to avoid shocking your body.**

GARMENTS AND WINESKINS (Mark 2:21-22)—Jesus uses two earthly analogies to show that the Good news of salvation by God’s free gift of grace through faith in Christ alone is incompatible with any false system of righteousness by works (i.e. any performance based system trying to achieve acceptance from God through human works).

Gal. 3:21-29

John MacArthur—*The Jewish leaders had added their own rabbinic stipulations and traditions to God’s law to the degree that Judaism had more to do with keeping extra biblical prescriptions than honoring divine requirements. The old garment is the legalistic system of rabbinic tradition that had obscured the law of God (Matt. 15:3-60). Jesus was not interested in mending the religion of the Pharisees. The good news of salvation by grace through faith in Him could not be combined with the works-righteousness of Judaism.*