

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Part 13: "Out with the OLD, in with the NEW!"



Today's Big Question: Why do I resist change so much in my life?

Luke 5:33-6:11 (NKJV): Jesus Is Questioned About Fasting

³³ Then they said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but Yours eat and drink?"

³⁴ And He said to them, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? ³⁵ But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days."

³⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them: "No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was *taken* out of the new does not match the old. ³⁷ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸ But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved.

³⁹ And no one, having drunk old *wine*, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'"

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

6 Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that He went through the grainfields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate *them*, rubbing *them* in *their* hands. ² And some of the Pharisees said to them, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?"

³ But Jesus answering them said, "Have you not even read this, what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴ how he went into the house of God, took and ate the showbread, and also gave some to those with him, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat?" ⁵ And He said to them, "The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

Healing on the Sabbath

⁶ Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷ So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him. ⁸ But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, “Arise and stand here.” And he arose and stood. ⁹ Then Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?” ¹⁰ And when He had looked around at them all, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. ¹¹ But they were filled with rage, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Let's jump into the message:

Out with the Old, In with the New.

3 Reasons why Jesus' way is radically different from anything else:

1. Jesus was bringing in a new _____ which was radically different from the old way of _____ (5:33-39).
 - The Pharisees fasted as a religious ritual instead of as a relational breakthrough (v. 33).

Scripture Insight: [5:33](#) **fast:** The Pharisees fasted twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays ([18:12](#)), as well as on the Day of Atonement ([Lev. 16:29](#)). They also fasted as an act of penitence ([Is. 58:1-9](#)) and to recall four times a year the destruction of Jerusalem ([Zech. 7:3](#), [5: 8:19](#)). The goal of fasting was to dedicate oneself to prayer and to focus on God. John led an ascetic life, which his followers also imitated ([7:24-28](#); [Matt. 11:1-19](#)).¹

- Jesus predicted that one day He would be taken away, and then His followers would fast (v. 34-35).

Scripture Insight: [5:34,35](#) **fast.** Fasting was often linked with mourning, whereas weddings were the supreme time for rejoicing. In fact, rabbis taught that weddings even took priority over many religious obligations. To fast during a wedding would reject hospitality, fail to participate in festivities, and so prove offensive to the host.²

- Jesus was ushering in a new way to have a relationship with God—the new covenant.

Scripture Insight: [5:36](#) **the new makes a tear:** Jesus pointed out that one cannot mix old things (Judaism) with new things (the new way He brings). The attempt to mix the two is compared to repairing clothes. The original cloth has already shrunk and when the new

¹ Quote from Thomas Nelson Study Bible.

² Quote from NIV Cultural Background Study Bible.

cloth shrinks a rip occurs. In addition, the two pieces do not match. Jesus' teaching here indicates the discontinuity between the old way and the new.³

- What was Jesus trying to communicate here? When you try to mix legalism with grace, you get a messed up and version of Christianity.

Jesus+anything=self-effort

Jesus+nothing=everything!

The Pharisee effect: $R+R-R=R$.

Rules+Regulations-Relationship=Rebellion.

The Jesus effect: $G+T=RT$

Grace+Truth=Real Transformation.

Principle: When it comes to change—most people resist change even though the change is a positive one.

5 Reasons why you need to embrace Godly change in your life:

- 1) You don't know what you don't know until you know!
- 2) Change is often the hardest thing, but a divine change will produce life-altering results in your life.
- 3) It's hard to experience great growth without first undergoing great change.
- 4) The moment you stop growing, you start dying.
- 5) The Kingdom of God is all about growth and change. If you resist change, you are resisting the Kingdom Culture.

2. Jesus was presenting a new way to _____ about God's _____ (6:1-5).

- The Pharisees were focusing on the mere external while Jesus was focusing on the heart (v. 1-2).
- The Pharisees were primarily concerned with the WHAT, while Jesus was also concerned with the WHY (v. 3-4).
- Jesus brought the law back to its original intent (v. 5).
- Jesus declared that He is Lord of the Sabbath; therefore, He is the only One who is in charge of the rules (v. 5).

³ Quote from Thomas Nelson Study Bible.

3. Jesus was offering warm _____ instead of cold _____ (6:6-11).

- Cold legalism values rules above people (v. 6).
- Cold legalism seeks to find fault instead of favor (v. 7).

As a church we should be more known for what we are FOR instead of what we are AGAINST. Yes, we are a Bible-believing, conservative church, but that doesn't mean that we should spend all of our time cursing the darkness. We will make a greater impact if we would spend more time lifting up the light and less time cursing the darkness.

- Warm grace seeks to help and lift up people—it focuses on the promises of God, not the problems of men (v. 8, 10).
- Warm grace focuses on what you can do to help people instead of dwelling on all that you can't do (v. 9).
- Cold legalism leads to the worst type of hypocrisy: The Religious Hypocrite. The same people that were worried about not breaking the Sabbath law, were now getting ready to break the law about not murdering!

James 2:10-13: ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Take Home Truth: OUT with the old way of living in the flesh and IN with the new way of living in the Spirit.

Action Steps:

- **For the rigid legalist:** Learn to serve God out of love and not out of obligation. Show grace to someone who doesn't deserve it this week.
- **For the seeking adventurer:** You have been looking for life in all the wrong places! Turn your life and your love over to Jesus and allow Him to give you the meaningful life that you have been searching for.

Make a decision this week? Please let us know on your Connection Card.

- **Go Deeper this week:**
- **Watch**—Check out RightNowMedia--
 - The Grave Robber by Mark Batterson.

Preview for next Sunday: "The Most Unlikely Team!" from Luke 6:12-16.