

Bridgeway Community Church
 Dr. David Anderson
 Series: Revival
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Revival: New Wine

INTRODUCTION

There are Four Gospels: *Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John*

- All four writers talk about wine, but in two different ways.
- Matthew, Mark, & Luke tell us the **Parable of New Wine in Old Wineskins**
- John tells a story about Jesus changing **Water into Wine at a Wedding**.

Let's look at both stories, starting with the Wedding in John 2

John 2:1-11

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴"**Dear Woman, ^a why do you involve me?**" Jesus replied. "**My hour has not yet come.**"⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "**Fill the jars with water**"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

3 OBSERVATIONS from the Water into Wine Miracle (John 2:1-11)

1. Notice WHO Mama Gave the Problem to - JESUS!

Question: Do you think she ever imagined how Jesus would handle the situation?

No, Mary just knew that Jesus was a responsible son and he could handle the situation. This was Jesus's first miraculous sign (2:11), so Mary would not have known he could do such a cool thing

"I'm here to tell someone today, Give your problem to Jesus! Don't worry about how he's going to fix it!...you don't want to tell Jesus how to fix it; you just gotta know that he can fix it, that he will fix it."

"Somebody has a problem today. You've run out of wine! In Scripture, one of the things that Wine can represents is joy. Maybe you've lost your joy. Give your problem to Jesus! Just like the wine was all out, maybe you're all out! Maybe you're all empty. Maybe you feel expended, wasted, like you have nothing left. Your joy is gone.

"Give your problem to Jesus. Sometimes we want to give our problem to everyone else. There are some things that are too big for everyone else to fix. There are somethings that are just too big for you to even handle yourself."

OLD GOSPEL SONG: Jesus Can Work it Out by Rev. George Jordan¹

That problem that I had
I couldn't seem to solve
I tried and I tried
But I kept gettin' deeper involved

So I turned it over to Jesus
and I stopped worryin' about it
Turned it over to the Lord
He worked it out

¹ <https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/kurtcarr/jesuscanworkitout.html>

2. Notice WHAT Mama said to the Servants!

John 2:5

His [Jesus] mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

"Sometimes we wanna do what other people tell us and Jesus is trying to tell us to do something. We don't like what he said and so we go to everybody else to find an answer. Some of you still have problems because you won't **"do whatever he tells you to do"**

"Some of us don't have an issue giving the problem over to Jesus, but when He tells us what to do...THAT'S our problem! Our problem is not the problem. Our problem is that Jesus told us what to do and we don't wanna do it."

"I wonder if the Lord just says, 'Do whatever you wanna do. Do it your way. But when you're to give my your problem and then do what I tell you to do about your problem, then we can talk.'"

"For some of you, your problem is that Jesus told you what to do about your problem and you just don't like it...it's an obedience issue."

3. Notice HOW Jesus Handled the Problem

Jesus Performed a Multi-layered Miracle. There are multiple layers to the fulfillment of this miracle that came to pass:

Available Vessels - empty jars of clay

Human Beings - Servants to fill the water jars

our work - this is something we can do

Performed a Subtle Miracle - He changed the water to wine

his work - this is something only he could do

"Sometimes we want God to do everything for us instead of cooperating with the multiple layers of God's miraculous movements in our lives. We want God to be a 'Genie in a Bottle.'"

We say: **"God, heal me"** (*But we won't go to the doctor*)

We say: **“God, protect me”** *(But we won’t take a free and available vaccine)*

We say: **“God, provide for me”** *(But we are too lazy to work hard)*

We say: **“God, bless me with a spouse”** *(But we won’t leave the house. At least Ruth went out in the field to work where she caught the eye of Boaz)*

We say: **“God, use me”** *(But we aren’t willing to sign up and serve at the church)*

We say: **“God, bless my finances and my business”** *(But we are too stingy to give God a tithe & offering)*

We say: **“God, grow me up spiritually”** *(But we are not willing to wake up 30 minutes early to meet with God, to read the scriptures, or to get on our knees to pray)*

“God works with the natural (jars & jars of clay - human beings) to usher in the supernatural!”

Prophetic Word:

“God’s timing is perfect and he wants you to know, that accord to John 2:10, that he is also saving the best for last...I’m here to tell somebody that God has been saving the best for last...I’m not talking the chronology, I’m not talking the quantity, I’m talking about the potency. I am talking about the propensity. I am talking about the intensity. I am talking about the precision. I am talking about the vitality. I am talking about the vibrancy. I am talking about the trajectory. God can do more the last couple years of your life, than all of your life before.”

Matthew 9:14-17 (Story is also in **Mark 2 & Luke 5**) **New wine and old wine skins**

Matthew 9:14-17

Then John’s disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?”

¹⁵Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

¹⁶“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. ¹⁷Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

CONTEXT

We think this passage is about wine, but it is actually about fasting.

John's disciples and the Pharisees were used to fasting as their religious tradition had taught them but Jesus's disciples were not fasting.

Matthew 9:15

¹⁵Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

Jesus is the groom and while he is here the disciples don't need to fast because fasting is connected to mourning.

Jesus is brilliantly foreshadowing about a time when he himself being the groom who will go away for a time and then return again for the Bride of Christ, the church.

Jesus uses two illustrations

Sewing illustration

Matthew 9:16

No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse.

Wine illustration

Matthew 9:17

Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Jesus's point is this: **OLD RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS CANNOT CONTAIN NEW KINGDOM DYNAMICS**

“As Jesus is ushering in a new kingdom and new kingdom dynamics, the old traditions and religious laws (old wineskins) will not be able to handle its content (new wine)... You’re going to need containers for new contents.”

Putting new wine into the old containers of religiosity will cause it to burst and you will ruin both the old container and the new contents!

The New Wine is the HOLY SPIRIT
The New Container is the CHURCH

God had to create a new container for the Spirit of God to move in.

Old religion cannot hold the Spirit of God. In fact, NO Religion can contain the Spirit of God! Religion is made by man. A relationship with God is about the Holy Spirit moving in our lives through the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

- The Holy Spirit never indwelt and remained with the Old Testament believers.
- The Spirit of God came upon people, anointed people, and filled people in the Old Testament, but never indwelt and remained.
- But in order for the New Testament Kingdom dynamics to work, there would need to be a New Container...the CHURCH! (You & me. Humans are God’s temple where the Holy Spirit dwells)

Ephesians 2:21-22 NIV

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

- The reason some churches are struggling, and even Christianity in general, is because we are trying to put New Wine into Old Wineskins. We are trying to force the new movements of God’s church and God’s Spirit in old theological containers, religious traditions, and cultural practices that are no longer working! **NOR DO THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO CONTAIN THE CONTENTS OF GOD’S SPIRIT!**
- The reason why many are leaving the church of Jesus Christ is because it is not the church of Jesus Christ! It is an old religious system that has slapped Jesus’s name on it! It is an Organized Religious system of hierarchical legalism, chauvinism, racism, misogyny, and exclusivity that cannot contain the new movements of the Holy Spirit.

- The New Wine of the Spirit is trying to producing new joy and new life!
- “It’s producing and pouring out women in leadership like never before. Look at Acts chapter 2. It’s pouring out the Spirit of God in movements that have never been seen before, but the old religious system can’t handle that. The old theological system can’t handle that. They can’t handle women in leadership. There are new movements of God’s wine that could not be handled so Jesus had to come, the Spirit had to come...the new container called the church was finally born where God’s Spirit would live in the people, dwell in the people and do whatever he wanted to do and whatever way the fresh Spirit would move.”
- The Fresh Winds of the Spirit are blowing in inclusivity and equality at the feet of Jesus and the Living Waters of true worship are springing up wellsprings of love, righteousness and justice. The old containers or religiosity simply cannot contain the contents of this new wine.

TIE IT TOGETHER

- In the wedding story we have Empty Jars
- In the fasting story we have Old Wineskins
- In one, Jesus is bringing in New Contents into old, available containers, the jars
- In the other story, Jesus is saying that the old containers cannot hold the new content, so we need New Containers.
- The beautiful thing is that Jesus is always doing a NEW THING and you get the New Contents in both!
- At the wedding, Jesus did not change the containers but changed the content within an old container!
- But with the new wine, the old containers couldn’t handle the new wine

PROPHETIC WORD

“Jesus is going to do something new in your old container. If you think about the water jars - some of us want to change the container. God is saying, ‘no, no, no, no! I want you to keep your container. Let me do something new in it.’ He is going to change that which is mundane, like water, and transform it into something tasteful and joyous like wine. Some of you are so empty and you’re going to trying and throw out the old container...God is saying to some of you: ‘Keep the container!’”

- God is saying keep the container of your marriage
- Keep the container of your family

- Keep the container of your business
- Keep the container of your ministry

You're asking God for a new container when He is trying to give you new contents. He is trying to fill your old container with New Wine! Let God take the empty jars of your life and change the contents.

In the Fasting story, Jesus made it clear that there needed to be NEW WINESKINS

- Respect the old, but behold I am making all things new
- Learn from the old, but behold I am doing a new thing!
- Bless the old, but behold I am making all things new
- Appreciate the old, but behold, I am doing a new thing!

PROPHETIC WORD

"For some of you, you've been trying to force the new dynamics of your life into old wineskins. You are trying to force your dynamic of faith into an old paradigm of religion and God is saying that the old paradigm is too constricting to hold the new content. God is saying to someone that you have to be willing to move to a new container. The old Wineskin of your religious traditions cannot feed your spirit anymore. The old is gone, behold all things are new!"

OLD JARS vs. NEW WINESKINS

- **DISCERNMENT IS NEEDED** to be able to know if God is calling you to New Wineskins or to revitalize and refill the Old Jars of your life.
- As a practical matter, ask God in prayer: *"God, is this an **"Old Jar"** issue or a **"New Wineskin"** issue?"*
- Either way, you get New Wine! Praise the Lord.

A Word of Encouragement

If you feel like you are being crushed, attacked by the enemy please understand that you will come out of the crushing. Grapes have to be crushed in order to produce wine.

Someone needs hope right now.

- You need to know that the crushing is leading to pressing out of something new in you; something beautiful, fruitful, tasteful!
- God is producing something that can only be accomplished through the crushing!
- When you come out of this, you will not be defeated.
- As you abide in the Vine, He will produce in you a New Wine!

John 15:5 ESV

[Jesus speaking to the disciples] “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”