

# New Wine in Old Wine Skins

## Overview

Jesus entered His ministry in such a unique way used the most common topics, the most common well-known things of life to introduce spiritual dynamics. He used the simplest things. He used things that people already knew and He used those things to conduct His ministry and to inform them. Jesus, when He called the disciples to follow Him, I'm sorry to continue to harp on this, but Jesus was known as a teacher. He was known as an incredible rabbi, and when He came and He called the Twelve, they were totally, totally surprised because there's no indication at all that they ever had a desire, a design to be teachers, to themselves be rabbis, or to have any leadership role. These were common people. In fact, when you look at the Twelve, you've got to wonder what was He thinking, but He was about to use twelve, no names, to do such astounding things.

When He said, follow me, they understood exactly what He meant, because a rabbi's role was to choose out the best, the most prominent, the most promising individuals to learn His concepts and His interpretation of the Word of God, and that those people who would follow Him, being His disciplined ones, would literally mimic not only what He thinks, not only what He says, but also how He conducts His life. So the disciples of any rabbi were to become clones of the rabbi in every which way they possibly could mimic everything that He did and in every way. So now these twelve, no names, are suddenly approached by an incredible rabbi who was known not only for what He said, but for what He did.

By the time He was calling them, His fame had traveled far and wide. He was doing miraculous things. There were very learned people saying, I've never heard anyone expound on the Word of God like this one. And yet Jesus chose these and said, as the Father sent me, I'm going to send you. Now as He's preparing them for ministry, He's dropping little nuggets of truth upon them. He's saying, you know what you have to do. I'm a rabbi, you're disciples. You have to mimic me, you have to do what I say, and you have to do it the way I do it. Now He's going to give them a warning in Mark's Gospel, chapter two, verse 22. So being only the second chapter of Mark, this is early in the discipleship process. And Jesus is giving a warning now when He said in Mark 2, 22, no one puts new wine into an old wine skin. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins and the wine and the wine skin will be ruined.

No, they pour new wine into new wineskins. So now Jesus is communicating to these men that it's a new era, that this is going to be a new day, and that they are not going to become the new Pharisees. They weren't going to become the new scribes. They weren't even going to become the new rabbis in the traditional fashion for the rabbis that were moving around Israel at that time were the byproduct of the rabbis before them. We were the product of the rabbis before

them were the product of the rabbis before them. So nothing had changed. The rabbis today, we're talking like the rabbis yesterday, those guys have been talking. So Jesus is saying, get that out of your head. It's a new day. It's a new day. And what I'm about to unfold before you, Jesus, is saying is a new template, a new model, a whole new everything in the Old Testament, only the prophets prophesied.

But Joel said the day will come when everybody will prophesy. The Holy Spirit rested upon only significant individuals in the Old Testament. But this is going to be a new era and the Holy Spirit will rest upon absolutely everyone. And many will be prone to pray for the sick. Many will be prone to speak the wisdom of God. Words of knowledge, words of understanding, incredible things are about to unfold. And the very day of Pentecost, the really the birthing day of the church in its glorious power, we saw Peter, who was known as a bumbling fellow who always got his mouth ahead of his mind. This man turned into a powerful, powerful speaker for the Lord that day and went forth even beyond the sermon that he preached that day as he unfolded glorious Old Testament truths.

How he ever gathered that stuff, how it ever occurred to him. This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel. That was a divine revelation. Here was a fisherman speaking like he was an archangel. Here was a man who took a remote passage of scripture that nobody was thinking about. Nobody was talking about it. Certainly the rabbis weren't talking about that kind of thing. And here Peter gets up and says to the thousands of people what you're seeing and hearing today is a new day. This is the day that Joel prophesied that in the last days I will do thus and thus and thus. And within days Peter also is at the gate called beautiful and says in the name of Jesus, silver and gold of I none, but what I do have I give unto you in the name of Jesus, get on your feet and do a little soft shoe for everybody out here.

It was a glorious day. But Jesus is warning in Mark two. He's saying, get a grip and listen to me now. When you endeavor to work on the new wine that is going to come, there are going to be those who will fight you and you must understand the new wine will not fit in the old model. The old temple is going to be replaced by you who will be known as the temples of the Holy Spirit. The priesthood is going to be replaced by all of you for in the book of Peter it says, we are a priesthood unto the Lord. We are a royal priesthood. Everything was going to change. And the old model, the old, can I say, the old church, the old temple, everything about it was going to be obliterated and there was going to be a new day and he was warning them.

Don't get trapped into believing that you can put the new wine into the old structure. It won't work. I have to wonder in a day like we're living today, I had a battle with myself and I'm having these battles all the time. David, don't get political. Be careful what you say, little mouth. It'll get you in a lot of trouble. But how do I remain silent and be true to the Word of God? And as I thought about this very text, it would be so intriguing, so interesting to sit maybe with a group of pastors and say, well, it's a new day. This is 2023. Do you believe in the new wine? How do you interpret this passage? You can't put new wine into the old wine skins. How would you interpret that? Let's remember what the new wine was significant about. There's a couple of verses that I would like to bring to your attention.

If I can find them here, of course they're gone. In the book of Deuteronomy, there's a promise there that, okay, the new wine back in the Old Testament, and it was still an understanding of those that Jesus was speaking to in that hour, new wine was a wording to speak of God's blessing. If there's a drought, there'll be no new wine. But if there's not a drought and if there is new wine, then all of your crops will be glorious. If there's a drought, everything's bad. So soon as you talk about new wine, you're talking about a wonderful hour, a glorious harvest, a bountiful harvest. So the wording of new wine spoke volumes in the words of the Lord and to the people. And there would be prayers.

You know, if you were at a wedding and somebody was going to pray over the bride and groom, without a doubt, the terminology new wine would be mentioned in the prayer that God would bless the fruit of their labors, like the fruit of their lands and their harvest, and that God would bless them with new wine. And new wine would be indicative of prosperity and indeed wealth. And so the whole wording of new wine speaks of prosperity. And here's Jesus talking about the prosperity of what was about to unfold. The kingdom of God is near you. The kingdom of God is here. John the Baptist, get ready, get ready, get ready. The kingdom of God is about to unfold before you, which means divine prosperity. Divine prosperity of the people, not in their pocket book, but in their relationship with God. And when we're in right relationship with God, he breaks forth in every dimension of our lives.

And so Jesus is talking really about the new wine and the prosperity of the Lord and the prosperity of the church. And these fellows are going to be called upon now to work out the new wine blessing in the church. And he's warning them, don't get drawn back. Again, back to my little seminar or our little gathering, our think tank and say, okay, Jesus was talking to the disciples. And if you're to ask pastors today, say, okay, what do you think Jesus was saying? Would they without a doubt would say, well, of course he's talking about a new day, a new hour, the birthing of the church and the new wine being the blessing of God.

I'd like to go on and say, okay, so if the new wine speaks of God doing something fresh and something new and prospering the church, how do we expect the new wine to flow among us? The new wine being the productivity of the Holy Spirit, because if the Lord doesn't build His church, we labor in vain who try to do so. So it's got to be the new wine. That's got to be understood as the blessing of God. And so how are we to get ready brothers, pastors? And here's what I'm not hearing, because I haven't been a part of the think tank, but here's what I'm seeing. Oh, yeah, we can't put the new wine into the old wine skin. The old wine skin is the way of the church 20 years ago. And 20 years ago, you know, we didn't do this and we didn't do that. We were known years ago. I was all part of it.

We were known not by what we do, but what we don't do. There was a time when I was in school as a youngster and we all were assembled into the gymnasium. And it was just hardly ever did we see these big doors that separated the gym into two parts. On the other side of the doors were the girls and us fellows were over here and never the twain shall meet. And so we show up this morning and we're taken for gym class and we get there to the guys horror. The girls are here. What are they doing here? And then the lady who was overseeing the girls, she took over the whole scene and Mr. Shramms took off to the side and he's just going to watch everything.

She took over and she had a record player and she said, no, what we're going to do today is we're going to learn how to square dance. I came from a church that didn't drink, smoke or chew or hang around with those naughty girls who do.

We didn't go to the movies. The devil was in charge of movies. We didn't go, of course we didn't go to the bar because unlike Jesus we have nothing to do with wine. I didn't say that. I couldn't even go to a pool hall and play snooker. You didn't even know that's what it was called. Oh yeah, snooker and be careful of the eight ball. Saturday mornings, I loved it. I was the youth pastor and on Saturday mornings I went to Parkdale. That's a part of downtown Hamilton. I knew nobody from our church lived in that area and my buddy, Georgie, who I'd love to the Lord, I told him playing snooker was okay. As long as the church doesn't know and on Saturday morning the youth pastor would take his new convert. We'd go to the Parkdale area through our favorite pool hall and yes, the smoke was hanging there. You want to talk about carbon emissions like, but we were in there. We were playing pool and then on Sunday morning, if I were to carry a rosary, I would have been praying my way in and praying my way out because I was a horrible wicked sinner and horror of all horrors.

Now as a youngster in school, I'm going to be forced to do the devil's work. I've got to do a square dance. No, I can't do that. I'll go to hell. The girls who are lined up, the boys are lined up. I stood there shyly. I was dying. I was dying. I can't do this. I can't. If my pastor ever finds out, if my parents ever find out, if the church ever finds out, this is a mortal sin. Do see, do dear partner and then you go to hell. Swing your partner round and round as you go into the caverns of fire to burn forever. That was my understanding. That's the old wine skin. Hello. What happened to me that morning? I refused to dance. The music got going on the girls, the boys were jumping around and David standing there like I was thinking, pillar assault.

That's probably not the best. I stood there like a totem pole. The record stopped. Shram un folded his arms. He was a he-man. He came over and he said, Forrest, you'll dance. I never responded. I could feel the tears running down my legs. He put his thumb into my shoulder up here somewhere and he started pressing down. He'll dance. He'll dance. I ended up on the floor and he's trying to push me through the non-oleum on the floor. I'm going deeper and deeper. I can't move. The tears are racing down my cheeks. He said, get on your feet. He took me down to the office and he told Mr. Lawson, the principal, he needs our good weapon. He won't dance. And he walked out. The principal sat me down and said, David, why don't you just get cooperative?

They saw me as a nasty child. This little brat. Why don't you just dance? Give it up, David. Is this worth dying for? And finally, he gutted out of me. Why won't I dance? We don't believe in it, sir. Who doesn't believe in it? My mom and my dad, my grandma and my grandpa, the whole church. Why? Because we're going to go to hell. If you cooperate in the gym and you dosy-dope, you're going to hell? Yes, sir. And I don't want to go to hell. The old blind skin. He did not give me this trap. And I don't remember ever having to dosy-dope. And to this day, I've never dosy-dope. Well, once on a cruise ship, I was forced in front of about 500 people to dance with April. And I thought that was okay.

She was my wife. So you see, we do have old wineskin and these pastors now get back to the

little group. Okay. These pastors, when we were asked, what happened? How do we do the new wine thing now? How do we move? How do we move with God? How's the new wine work? And the wording would be, well, we've got to give up the nasty silly ideas that we used to have. We've got to get modern. There's a move afoot now among the churches. And I believe that in some ways we're doing it out of fear because we fear the government's big hand. But in other ways, I think that some churches are going what I think of as modern because it's the chicken. It's a smart thing to do. We all know that it was kind of dumb years ago. You couldn't do this. You couldn't do that.

We were known by what we could not do. And so religion was a thing of killing your fun. God was somebody in heaven with a baseball bat. And if you even so much as break a smile, he'll crack it over your head. You bad wicked sinner. We're going to move into the future. Everything is going to get better now. New wine requires communicating in a new way. It means inclusiveness. It means don't say anything. Don't do anything that makes somebody feel bad. How about you bunch of white at supple cars, you snakes in the grass. No, no, no. Jesus could get away with that. But that's not the real Jesus. He just kind of let that out on one occasion. John the Baptist lost his head for telling the truth. He was a victim of civil disobedience. He disobeyed and they cut his head off. The early apostles, they tell us every one of them died for their faith because they refused. They refused to comply.

Hebrew boys in the Old Testament were told you will bow down and you will adore you will worship our potentate, our monarch. We can't do it. You will do it or you'll pay. We can't do it. We'll set you on fire. Then we'll go out with a blaze of glory. They would not bow. They would not bend. And at the end of the day, they refused to burn. God rescued them. So now churches are endeavoring to be expressive of the new wine. So now the new church washrooms are now multi-gender. In the restaurants, not so long ago, they made multi gender bathrooms. Do you remember that? I remember going into a certain coffee donut shop. We'll leave Tim out of it. I wouldn't want to mention who it was. But I remember the first time I went down the hall because I needed a quick little and I got to the door and men was gone and they looked at the ladies there and that was gone. And it was just kind of like a sign like welcome. But when you got in there, there was at least a lock. Now the lock is gone and it is multi-gender. So anybody can go in any washroom they want to.

And now our churches are complying with this because you see, we've got to give up the old wineskin. I'm trying to say two dumb things right here. Yes, we were living in some kind of a box years ago when, when as a child, I was told Mickey Mouse is going to hell. And if you go to the movies, you're going to go with him. Yes, that was foolishness. Of course it was. Of course it was. It was just too narrow minded and really too foolish in so many ways. It was kind of like what the government did to us in the last three years about don't breathe on somebody. You'll give them the COVID that that was not true. All of these things. We were told don't don't don't don't don't do it. And now you're finding out, well, maybe it wasn't all accurate. I could get in trouble even for saying that today because it's no longer allowed that you would say something that doesn't line up with the word that comes from a higher office.

But at least the church we've dealt with some of those square little boxes that we were pinned in. And maybe we've gone a little too far. Maybe the pendulum swung too far over to this side. I'm so glad I got freed of the tie. Are you okay with that? There was a day when I showed up to preach in a church in Kitchener. I don't want to mention what church was. It was. But Brother Tepper, you'd know exactly what church it was. And you'd know exactly who the pastor was. And he wanted me to come and speak on a Wednesday night. And it was a sultry summer evening like we're going through now. And so I just lived down the road at Braeside camp that we lived at Braeside at the time. And so I'm going out the door and I was dressed like this because of that. Well, it's summer, it's Wednesday night, it's hot. I don't even know if the church, I don't think the church was air conditioned as I and I showed up and the pastor was all welcome, brother welcome.

If you just want to get your jacket and your tie, you can use my office to put it on. I sort of didn't tell a fib. I did. I just kind of almost let on kind of like a passive way that, oh, oh, what was I? Of course, the jacket like I had forgotten. You said, you came without a jacket? Yes, sir. You have one in the car. No, sir. You have a tie. I do not. Can you get a hold of your wife? Can she bring it? I called my wife. She jumped in the car, the other car, and she drove to the church and she handed me a tie and a jacket because that was the wineskin of the day. We've changed some things and I'm all for change in advance and moving ahead. But is this what Jesus was talking about? The flow and the dynamics of the presence of the Holy Spirit and what God wants to do in His church. You've got to, you've got to deal with the old wineskin because the new wine won't fit in the old. There's got to be some kind of semblance of order and productivity and wisdom here. We can't go nuts with catching up with the times.

We're actually known conservative Christians. No, that is not even the dividing line anymore. To be known as this conservative Christian is not a line of definition any longer because even on the side of the conservative Christians, the majority are moving towards the new, the new world order, the new transition, the entire reset of everything that we think and everything that we do. The church, even the evangelical, the conservative, not political, the conservative people, the people who are modest, the people, conservative is a concept of sticking to the old lines, sticking to the old paths and remembering the memorial.

So far God has blessed us. Those piles of rocks were not there to cause them to be a stumbling place. The rocks were piled up on certain occasions so that grandpa would tell their children that pile of rocks represents a miracle that God did. But even the rocks are being removed. Everything is being torn to shreds. And now if you don't, even as a church, adopt all the new concepts and all the new stuff, you're not only old time. You're a bigot. You're a racist. You're out of line. You better get with the times, brother. This is a new day. And there's people's feelings to take into account. I want to sound a little warning here. The word of God clearly indicates maybe in other terms, but the clear concept is there.

The Holy Spirit is not a thing. He is a person. He's not a gas or a vapor. He's not the pathetic little guy, the third person in head office. He's a powerful Holy Spirit, co-equal with the Father, co-equal with the Son. And as a person, he has feelings. And while we're trying not to hurt the feelings of certain groups of people in our country, we are offending the Holy Spirit. What about his



feelings? Jesus died to rescue. The cross is sufficient. We don't have to add anything. We don't have to add any dimensions. We don't have to make the church service more delicious. We don't have to make our worship more palatable. Our time together, young people love the lights off. They just want intelligent lighting flashing around. We've got to do that to drive them in. Do you really believe that if Jesus was here among us today, that if we were together with him, he'd order the big auditorium wherever we're going to gather. Turn off the lights, please. We've got to get some kids in here. No, he would say, men love darkness rather than light because their concept and their mind and their heart is filled with evil. They want it dark. They want to hide. Where are you going? The early church had issues. Caesar was supposed to be known as a deity. When they refused to honor that deity, they paid so with their lives. They tell us that Peter was crucified upside down. Why? Because he didn't feel worthy to be crucified in exactly the same manner as Jesus.

There's no scripture to prove this, but it's an accepted concept. Maybe it's folklore, but for me, it sort of fits. It's a difficult day for the church to be on the go. I'm sorry. I came in here like an exploding atomic bomb this morning. All excited, da, da, da, da, da. Well, I came down to the other realities today. The new wine is what God wants to do. The old wine skin can't handle it and there has to be adjustments, but the old wine skin in my estimation is not the way that we did things. It's not the way. The old wine skin is the temperament, the old wine skin like we used to always meet at 11 o'clock because that's what time God showed up. Did you ever notice it was always 11 o'clock? There are churches now that will have four services and the first service is at seven in the morning. And the next one's at nine. The next one's at 11.

We attended a church down in California and we found out that the first service of the weekend was four o'clock Saturday afternoon. And when we got there, when the service came to the conclusion, somebody at the front said, now, please move out these doors here at the front because there's a crowd bigger than this one ready to get in. They were coming for the five 30 service. That church adjusted its wine skin and not its core values. They adjusted the time that they met. There was a time you'd never find a set of drums in the church. I got two kinds of drums, I have available. If you have a drummer boy in your family, we got the old acoustic ones. And I have a personal one. It's all electric.

It's scary to live in daylight. So do you. There was a time when I said I'm going to bring drums in the church and they've got the old ladies of the church are going to drum me out the door. No, dear God, the drums of Africa. No, it wasn't. It was. So we had challenges back in the day of trying to just move along a little bit. We had our challenges, but God helped us through them. And in the midst of all of those changes that we did experience, many churches experienced revival. People got saved by the thousands. Think about that, that, that, that movie right now with, uh, oh, Kelsey grammar, right? I remember, I remember the magazine covers were at times or was it life magazine, uh, whatever it was, pictures of young people. The guys had ponytails are you nuts. That was a day when boys didn't. Well, we had the Beatles, but they at least had the courtesy to cut it off a little bit. But, then it got carried away. And, and, and, and, and so here were all these young people, literally by the thousands coming to know Jesus, they finally found a pastor in a church that would say, you don't have to change. Come on in. Jesus will change you. The church never changed its core values.

They never changed the message. They never changed the bathrooms to accommodate somebody who said, I kind of identify as a giraffe today. If you got a bathroom with stripes on the wall, they didn't have to identify. They didn't have to change all the stuff. They said, this is the way of the cross. You're welcome to come in and sit and enjoy God is going to change you. Revival broke out in incredible ways. Did you know this? The very place where we saw that picture in that magazine of people being baptized in water. This is going back, what? The 1960s or whatever, right? And it was Chuck Smith, the church. And then it was also Greg Laurie. I forget who was for what? And recently, like this just happened in the last couple of weeks, there was kind of like an anniversary of some kind. And people gathered at the very place. And the number of people recently who went down into the ocean to, for the first time, baptized in water, numbered in the thousands.

You see, God's still doing it. And He's doing it with the lights on for sooth. Are you serious? I went, I dare to tell you this. It's going all over the internet too. Dave, you're going to lose your credentials. That's okay. I'm a very high official of the PAOC outside that famous little restaurant I talked about. You know, that has rather delicious coffee and, well, you know, and he saw me and he says, Hey, brother Dave, I heard things are going pretty good down there in, you know, this place. And I'm not identifying anything less. There's going to be some Marines coming to rest us. I said, yeah, how are you? I said, well, I think that things are going nicely. And he said, what else is going on in your life? I've always been a rascal. Okay. I said, well, brother, I think I'm going to become an entrepreneur. What's that? I said, I'm not going to buy a transport truck this time. He knew well about a transport truck I bought years ago. And that's how we really did some major evangelism back in the 70s.

He actually came and helped us at that time. This now was a guy way up here. And in those days, his youth pastor came and helped me with my truck. I said, I'm not going to buy a truck this time. I'm going to rent one. Oh, are you going to rent a truck? I said, I've got an opportunity to buy fog machines wholesale. And I said, I'm going to buy thousands of them. I'm going to pack them in the truck. I'm not going to cross Canada. I'm going to go to every church. I'm going to say, do you want revival? Of course, would you brother? I've got a I've got a I've got something for you. I bought her for 50 bucks. I'll sell it to you for 55. We're going to have a revival from coast to coast. I'm in the fog business. How did this illustrious man of calm demeanor and he turned his back on me? He never said a word. He turned his back and he walked away. He's in heaven now. That was the last conversation I had with a man who would be considered to be my boss at the time. If we've got to have a fog machine to reach the ungodly, I'm out of business. If we've got to have people in mini skirts, exposing their midriff and all the rest of it to attract the young people, I'm out of business.

Paul said, I preach Christ crucified. And he basically said, if that doesn't work, we're all out of business. There's none saved, but by the drawing and the wooing of the Holy Spirit. If you don't believe in fog machines and some churches, you may not make it. New wine won't fit in old wine skins. The rabbi was telling them, there's already a religious system. I'm going to be the first one to die, but you guys are going to pay for it as well. This was not signing up for a wonderful experience. Like we're all going to become millionaires and we're all going to drive Rolls Royces. He said, if any man will follow me, he's got to deny himself what? Everything. Your reputation.



He's got to deny himself the comforts of life. The foxes have a den and the birds will be in their nest tonight. You want to follow me? Deny yourself. Live a disciplined life. And oh, by the way, did I include this? Come and die. We love a song. Command, die in the master. Call it. You know that one? Command die. There's another little verse who we don't like to sing. Command, die. If any man will follow me, let him deny himself. Take up his cross. Oh, Jesus just meant that was just a philosophical statement. Take up your cross. That was just, you know, that this is what the little group of church pastors would say too, by the way. No, when Jesus talked in those days and said, if any man will follow me, let him take up his cross. He meant for some of you, it's going to cost your life because the old wineskin is going to rebel and say, we'll have none of this. Oh, how do I conclude a service like that? I've worked myself into a non-holy sweat here. Don't come near me. You'll pass out. Can you rescue me, Siegfried? What a thing to do to a guy like you. Can you think of a happy, joyous song, just even? Is there a hymn that kind of resonates? Be holy for I am holy or revival now?

I love you. And I hope, I'm not going to say I hope that the message was received well. That would be a foolish statement. Jesus never apologized for preaching the truth. If you think I went a little too far, forgive me for that. I'm nervous. Do we still shake hands when we're done here? I love you very much. And yeah, following the Lord may be a solo flight. It may be a solo flight. But we're going to do what God's called us to do. Amen.