

“New Year... New Wine”



**“Christianity is not just a
changed life; it is an
exchanged life”**

John Stott

Mark 2: 18-22 NLT

¹⁸ Once when John's disciples and **the Pharisees were fasting**, some people came to Jesus and asked, "**Why don't your disciples fast like John's disciples and the Pharisees do?**" ¹⁹ Jesus replied, "Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. They can't fast while the groom is with them. ²⁰ But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. ²¹ "Besides, **who would patch old clothing with new cloth?** For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.

Mark 2: 22 NLT

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins.”

Luke 5: 37-39 NIV

³⁷ “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. ³⁸ New wine must be stored in new wineskins. ³⁹ But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. ‘The old is just fine,’ they say.”

Jesus tells us about the Pharisees

Study Matthew 23...

Matthew 23: 1-3 NLT

¹Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²“The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. ³So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach.

- Hypocrisy
- Burden bringers
- Showmanship
- 'Honour' seeking
- Self exalting /proud
- Self indulgent... Loopholes in the law
- Legalistic... Letter literate but 'Spirit-less'
- *The list continues*

1. Integrating Integrity

1. No conflict between your heart, words, and actions
2. Being true to yourself and others
3. Choosing what is right even when no one is present
4. Choosing right over easy

Psalm 15: 1-5 NLT

¹ Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?

² Those who lead blameless lives and **do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts.**

2. Privatizing Prayer

1. Reality and depth of praying alone
2. Saying out thoughts and emotions
3. Checking motives

People who pray more in public than in private should consider their motives

4. Listening to learn and obey
5. Casting cares

Remembering that God is our primary audience

3. Dealing with Doubt

John 3:1...10 NLT

¹There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ²After dark one evening, he **came to speak with Jesus.** ⁴**“What do you mean?”** exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” ⁹**“How are these things possible?”** Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰Jesus replied, **“You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things?...”**

- Thomas questioned Jesus' resurrection
- David asked God "Why?" in the Psalms
- John the Baptist questioned while in prison

God did not reject them—He met them in their doubts.
God is not threatened by our questions.

Questioning while still seeking?

Go to Jesus

Doubting God's Promises?

Go to Jesus

"We walk by faith, not by sight." — 2 Corinthians 5:7

4. Exercising Humility

Phil. 2: 3-8 NIV

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.⁵ In your **relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:** ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by **taking the very nature of a servant**, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself **by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!**

5. Challenging Culture

“Culture becomes dangerous when it shapes our faith instead of being shaped by it.” *A.W. Tozer*

Romans 12: 2 NIV

² Do not conform to the **pattern of this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Q. Is it truth? Am I lighting up? Is God glorified?

“Be ready for a bad name; be willing to be called a bigot; be prepared for the loss of friendships; be prepared for anything so long as you can stand fast by Him who bought you with His precious blood.”

C.H. Spurgeon

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