

## The Parable of Patches and Wineskins

Text : **Matt. 9: 14-17 & Luke 5: 36-39**

### INTRODUCTION :

**A. Have you ever had an old hat or pair of shoes that you just couldn't part with?**

1. It is the nature of man to cling to the familiar and the comfortable.
2. We do that in all areas of our life. ( **New shoes are just never as comfortable.** )

**B. Change is essential to survival, but most systems resist it.**

1. Governments resist change. ( **Candidates run on promises of change, but ...** )  
\* **Thomas Jefferson said the American Revolution would need repeating every 25 years.**
2. The older and larger a company gets, the slower it is to adapt to changing times.
3. Religious organizations cling tenaciously to their past definitions of orthodoxy until they become so irrelevant they fade away to eventual extinction.

**C. This was the exact problem of the Jewish system.**

1. As the years past they had become increasingly ridged and inflexible.
2. The establishment feared change above all else.
3. They had developed an official way to do and to say most everything.
  - a. For example, they determined the number of steps one could take on the Sabbath.
  - b. They tolerated no variation from the official.
  - c. The leadership had made a decision about everything so there was no freedom.
4. The number of people representing the system were diminishing in number, but increasing in power. ( **There were only about 6000 Pharisees** )

**D. Jesus was viewed as a threat to the system.**

1. He was from outside the system.
2. He refused to conform to the system.
3. He was more capable of defending His positions than the system was of defending its.
4. The masses were increasingly receptive to the message of Jesus.

**Thus, Jesus had to deal with the efforts of the Jewish leaders to force Him into conformity and the resulting conflict. The parable we are about to study is part of His explanation why He could not march to the drumbeat of the Pharisees and scribes.**

**READ THE TEXT ... Luke 5: 36-39**

## I. The context of the parable.

### A. The Jewish leaders in Galilee and Judea have been unsuccessful in opposing Jesus.

1. The people are impressed by his ability to heal the sick.
  - a. Examples given :
    - 1) Mother-in-law of Peter
    - 2) The Leper
    - 3) Paralyzed man
  - b. **Luke 4:40** -"laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them." **ALL healed**
2. The Jewish leaders couldn't deny His works were miraculous.
  - a. They did not approve of Jesus. ( **He was not on of them; he could not be right.** )
  - b. They were looking for something to use as an accusation against Him.
  - c. They feared the people's reaction if they did anything to physically stop Jesus.

### B. Jesus did not altar His message to appease those who opposed Him.

1. Seeing their animosity, He spoke with authority. ( **4:32** ) **Not politically correct.**
2. Incited them by claiming to have authority to forgive sins. ( **5:24** )

### C. The Jewish leaders looked at everything Jesus did with a critical eyes.

1. Their propensity toward faultfinding revealed the wicked nature of their hearts.
2. If He'd tried, nothing Jesus could've done would've gained their acceptance.
3. They pressured Jesus to conform to their system, "*Your disciples don't fast.*"

### D. This is not an unusual circumstance.

1. All systems defend themselves and religious systems more than others.
2. Churches in an area and/or preachers in an area scrutinize any group that is different.
3. If a congregation is growing, others in the area begin looking for some fault.
  - a. Whatever makes them different makes them bad in the eyes of the faultfinders.
  - b. The most common accusation, "*They are liberal.*"
  - c. Christians should rejoice in the successes of others and learn from them.

## II. The elements of the parable.

### A. Neither of these parables was original with Jesus.

1. It's not essential that preachers have 100% original material.
  - a. All scripture references are 2000 years old and have been used many times.
  - b. There are a limited number of ways to say any given thing.

2. The Apostle Paul quoted contemporary poets and secular prophets.
  - a. **Acts 17: 28** ... poet
  - b. **Titus 1: 12** ... prophet
3. These illustrative parables were in common use.
  - a. The wise teacher starts from where people are and leads them to where he wants them.
  - b. All knowledge is build upon previous knowledge. **From the familiar to the new.**

#### **B. They were common sense observations :**

1. New cloth shrinks. ( **Modern synthetic fabrics don't shrink as much.** )
  - a. Natural fibers shrink 10 to 20% . ( **Wool, cotton, linen** )
  - b. Examples :
    - **In the era when people used to patch clothing, patch material was always cut from used clothing, not from new remnants of cloth.**
    - **Grandmother used to boil scraps before making them into quilts.**
2. Wine puts off gases while fermenting. ( **Grape juice -new wine- was considered best** )
  - a. Fermentation can create enough pressure to break modern bottles.
  - b. Fermentation containers are vented and the tube submerged in water.
3. Winemaking was a common skill in ancient Palestine.
  - a. Wine was put in new skins because they were pliable and inflatable.
  - b. Old skins became dry and ridged.
  - c. Wine was transferred from container to container to prevent loss.
  - d. Long-term storage was accomplished using stone jars lined and sealed with pitch.

### **III. The message of the parables for the Jews.**

#### **A. The gospel of the kingdom is not something to be added to the Jewish system.**

1. The Pharisees were trying to make Jesus comply with their rules.
2. They had made their system so inflexible it could not absorb anything new.
3. Nothing short of conformity to their Judaism would have gained acceptance for Jesus.

#### **B. That which Jesus brought was something new, not a fix for something old.**

1. At the beginning the Jews tried to call Christianity a sect of the Jews. **re control**
2. Both Judaism and Christianity would have been destroyed by combining them.
3. Christianity was something completely new and different. ( **Grace -Vs- Law** )
  - a. It was not a part added to God's relationship with man, it was the whole thing.
  - b. It wasn't a sect of the Jews, it was for the whole world. **Every sect of every nation**

#### IV. The messages of the parables for Christians.

##### A. Christianity is not something that can be added to our lives.

1. We all have an “old” life prior to becoming a Christian.
  - a. This is logic, not deep theology.
  - b. Physically living people come to Christ.
2. Our old life is built after the pattern of the society in which we live.
  - a. **Eph 2: 1-3** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
  - b. **Col. 1: 21-22** And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—
3. Christians receive new life built on the pattern of Jesus Christ.
  - a. **READ & exegete ... Rom. 6: 1-7**
  - b. **Col. 3: 9-10** Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

##### B. Christianity does not repair old lives, it replaces them with new ones.

1. Many people come to Christ wanting to add Him to their lives.
  - a. They want to keep the same friends, same hobbies, same activities, same ... same ...
  - b. The only things they want to change is the church they attend.
2. This error is addressed time and time again in the New Testament.
  - a. Jesus told people they had to devote their entire lives to serving Him.  
**Read ... Luke 9: 23-24** ( **daily, lose daily life in order to find eternal life** )
  - b. Jesus warned us to count the cost before we begin the journey.  
**Read ... Luke 14: 25-35** ( **put Jesus first, give up all, only spiritual hear** )
  - c. The Apostles taught the same thing.  
**Gal. 2: 20**-I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Compare ... II Cor. 5: 14-17**

**CONCLUSION :****A. These parables are just as poignant today as they were 2000 years ago.**

1. The Jews could not fit Christianity into their system.
  - a. Judaism was the old.
  - b. Christianity was the new.
  - c. The new replaced the old, but could not be added to it.
2. People today cannot fit Christianity into their lives.
  - a. We all have a life on this earth.
  - b. Christianity is a lifestyle.
  - c. The Christian life replaces the life we have.

**B. Trying to lead a double life is frustrating and untenable.**

1. Jesus will not be left of a shelf reserved for a convenient time.
2. There can be only one center to our lives.
3. Jesus demands that we make a clear choice.

**Luke 11: 23- He who is not with Me is against Me; and  
he who does not gather with Me, scatters.**

**C. Satan constantly woos us hoping we will choose him.**

1. Which will you choose.
2. No one can have both.

**INVITATION :**

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