

The Makers Mark pt 2

Mark 2:18-28

Jesus Questioned About Fasting

¹⁸Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?"

¹⁹Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. ²⁰But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.

²¹"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. ²²And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

²³One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grain fields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

²⁵He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

²⁷Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

On June 4, 1783 at the market square of a French village of Annonay,

- Tethered above a fire, straining its lines, was a huge taffeta bag 33 feet in diameter.
- the balloon was cut from its moorings and set free to rise majestically into the noon sky.
- Six thousand feet into the air it went -- the first public ascent of a balloon,
- the first step in the history of human flight. What a moment
- It came to earth several miles away in a field,
- where it was promptly attacked by pitchfork-waving peasants and torn to pieces
- as some.... work of the devil

Often people don't react well to something new

- and this was the obstacle Jesus met time and time again in his ministry

Remember from last week the question we are the readers of this book are meant to be asking

- Is who do you say that I am
- Who do we make this Jesus guy out to be
- Because in the story we see Jesus taking on a new authority in the Jewish community
-

They come with 2 question to Ask Jesus

- Both about food and eating, both trying to criticise Jesus and the disciples
- And weaken his position in the eyes of the common folk
- First was "why aren't they fasting", second was "why are they breaking the Sabbath"

Fasting was not in the law, but had become a part of the common practise of the Jews

- The leaders would fast twice a week
- And therefore they had an expectation that this is what pious people did
- It was a sign of piety amongst the Jewish people and the disciples weren't doing it.
- And then worse than that, they had been caught preparing food on the Sabbath
- As they walked through the field they picked grain
- Now the question arises, how did the Pharisees know this?
- Why were **they** in the fields on the Sabbath?

Its likely that they were following them on the Sabbath trying to dig up some dirt on them

Jesus answered this question of him and his disciple by saying

- V20
- He is setting up a parallel between his disciples and a wedding party
- If you were at a wedding and were fasting, it would be seen as an insult
- That you were mourning at the wedding, like it was a protest
- Saying that you didn't approve of the wedding
- So Jesus is saying for his disciple to fast is just not appropriate at this time
- Because something bigger is at play here.

Jesus using the old rabbinical style of answering question with a story

- Says v21,22
- But in this story he is giving us more than just an answer to the Pharisees question
- Because he gives us this illustration about the old and the new
- A message for all those who believe in him

The New and the Old cant co-exist...

In Christ there is something new, and the old won't fit with the new

- The Pharisees are holding on to the old, and are hostile to anything new

- Jesus come to show them something new
- But what he shows them really had been there all along

V27 the Pharisees had turned the Sabbath into an obligation to be performed

- Something that needed to be done by the people of Israel
- But as Jesus tells them, the heart of the law is not to oppress people but to love them
- Matt 12:7 Jesus says "I require mercy not sacrifice"
- The Law is not at the expense of the people but for the benefit of the people

Because what God is after is not blind obedience or people just outwardly following the rules

- But he wants people to take the law into their hearts... because its good
- The intent of the law is not to be a burden on the people
- But to make life better for all.

And Jesus is saying to them this is the new teaching I bring you

- To fully embrace it you need to cast off your old understanding

One of the questions from This story is why do the disciples pick and eat the Wheat on the Sabbath

- All their lives they would have obeyed this law
- It was their custom and their way of life, so why now are they working on the Sabbath
- Because for them something new was happening.... They priorities have changes
- Their values have shifted
- They wanted to get to the next town and preach the gospel
- Tell people about this Jesus guy and his new teachings, his new way to God
- And all that drove them and Jewish men, their tradition, their cultural norms
- was put aside... because what they have in JC eclipsed the old

the question for us is this... what old thing do we hold onto

- the Pharisees did it, and because of that missed the messiah
- what are the old things we hold onto in competition to the new thing we have in Christ

What are the values we hold onto... the values we need to shift?

- As a blow in on the northern beaches my observation is that "Life style is king" here
- I think more so than career or social status, life style is the highest held value
- I did a funeral for a man who lived up around here most of his life
- And what they celebrated was his lifestyle, he had a simple job
- But owned a small boat, fishing, swimming, tennis, this was his little paradise
- That sound good to me... that's a powerful narrative

But unfortunately sometimes that value gets in the way of what Christ has for us

- For this new way of looking at the world
- Nippers is more important than church.....
- Fishing on Sunday morning is not more important
- One minister I knew was at a church right next to the beach, and he said he would often see his parishiners walk past church on a Sunday morning to go to the beach...
- They would park the car drive right next to church and walk to the beach
-that's putting lifestyle 1st

Or maybe its letting Go of the old ways.... is too much

- I remember when I was younger living for the week end
- Go out all night, get home a dawn sleep all day go out the next night
- Leading at youth was a massive sacrifice, because it was 1/2 my precious weekend
- I struggled with that for a while, but the new is so much better than the old
- I think of people now who are still living for the weekend... and its sad

Jesus calls us to let go of the old and take on something new

In 2009 MTV released a show called, 16 and pregnant,

- And it was about just that, teenagers who got pregnant while at school
- And it follows all the hardship of having a baby doing school, being just a kid
- And if you track the rate of teen pregnancies In the USA
- You see this sharp down turn from 2010 onwards
- Because the show opened their eyes to the reality of parenting
- So before this show, teenagers must have thought that having a baby was just fun
- And that It would not affect the life style they wanted to have.
- But knowing the truth changed their minds

Jesus here want his people to know the truth

- He wants them to see the heart of God law, and know the gospel
- And in Knowing the truth will gladly change and take on something new
- Because they know that what we have is Jesus is new and Good.

Because when we hold onto the old ways, it creates havoc with the new

- If you fill old skins with new wine, it bursts
- New patch on old garment it will shrink and tear
- The old and the new tear at each other until one is destroyed

Max Lucado tells this story of a man he knew in his days as a pastor of a local church

- Who suffered from terrible drug addiction, all that goes with it
- Who over the course of a couple of conversations wanted to come to Christ
- He wanted a fresh start he wanted to be made anew, transformed by JC
- There wasn't much good in his life and the gospel of love was a powerful message for him
- But he had a girlfriend who he loved and she was not buying it
- Every time he wanted to make changes in his life, get off the drugs
- Start hanging out with the church crowd

- She would slow bring him back to his old life, drugs, parties
- And eventually he gave up on the whole Christianity thing altogether

He was trying to put new wine in old skins

- The two where incompatible, one will destroy the other
- Either the wine will be ruined or the skin will split.

Because sometimes the new is scary and we want to attack it with pitchforks

- But in the new we have life and life to the full
- Because it shows us how life is meant to be lived, how it works best.
- In Christ we are all made anew
- What was old is gone the new has come

Is there something of the old way that you are holding on to in your life?

- Lets pray