

## *Old Ways and New Ways* Mark 2:18-22

This is yet another conflict Jesus has with a religious group. Criticism just prior to this = with whom Jesus eats; now = when his disciples eat.

### **Question: Why dump the status quo tradition of fasting? 18**

- Confrontation comes from a mixed group, (*They*, cf. Mtt. 9:14).
- Fasting is required for Day of Atonement, but it could be also be done to mourn national tragedies, in crises, personal issues. See Lk. 18:12

Three analogies show the incompatibility of Jesus' new way w/the old.

### **Answer #1: It's important to enjoy God' presence. 19,20**

- Weddings were big seven-day celebrations, and it would be rude to fast.
- John vs Jesus, Matt. 11:16-19. Note John's view of Jesus in Jn. 3:29, which in the OT = God's role, Isa. 62:4,5, Jer. 2:2, cf. Rev. 19:7.21:2.
- Jesus' fate is hinted at (*taken*). Consider criticism of David in II Sam.12.
- Fasting: later expected: Acts 13:3, 14:23, Matt. 6:16-18, recall Mtt. 4:2.

### **Answer #2: It's not always possible to fix the old with the new. 21**

It's absurd / destructive to place a new unshrunk patch over an old cloth because of its inflexibility, so too Jesus can't be a mere attachment to the Law. He honors the OT yet fulfills it, Matt. 5:17, Gal. 3:24,25.

### **Answer #3: It's not always possible to mix the old and the new. 22**

- Again the new is stronger and combining it w/the old / inflexible brings ruin. Luke adds Jesus' rebuke for those content w/what's old, 5:38,39.



\*The reluctance to give up on mixing the Law with Jesus' new gospel surfaces in a big way in Acts 15 and Galatians.

\*The desire to resist change when better concepts come along has been a really big problem for some churches. Is it for you?

