

LUKE 5:33-39

9 OCTOBER 2022

ICE BREAKER: Describe something new you tried (such as a project, hobby, or meal), but ruined.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read Luke 5:27-32) At Levi’s great banquet for Jesus, the Pharisees and the Teachers of the Mosaic Law had a problem with Jesus and His disciples. They **questioned** the types of persons Jesus and His disciples befriended saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and ‘sinners?’” (v.30)

After being rebuked by Jesus, the religious leaders found a **new accusation**. Now, they complained to Jesus **not about the type of people** they befriended, but about the **type of activity** they did together—celebrating by eating and drinking.

1. What have you found to be the **dangers** of trying to **please other people’s expectations**?

(Read verse 33) The religious leaders **complained** Jesus’ disciples were found at parties celebrating, while John’s disciples as well as the disciples of the Pharisees could be found fasting and praying. The religious leaders **compared** the **outward acts** of other religious followers to the outward acts of Jesus and His followers.

2. When we **compare** people’s **outward behavior** to determine moral character, what do we often **overlook**?

(Read verses 33-35 & Matthew 6:16-18) Some believe **fasting** is only an Old Testament practice that no longer applies to Christians. However, **Jesus** did not prohibit fasting, but practiced it. He himself began His public ministry by fasting forty days in the desert (Matthew 4). The **early Church** in Antioch and **Apostle Paul** often fasted, especially before major decisions (Acts 13:2).

Similar to when a groom departs and the wedding celebration ends, Jesus explained that when He is removed physically from His disciples, they would resume their need for fasting and prayer. Jesus even promised that those who fasted with the proper motivation would be sure to receive God’s **reward**.

3. How can **fasting** be a key to receiving the **rewards** and **blessings** God desires for you?

(Read verses 36-39) Jesus explained through parables the new era of His Kingdom would require a new look at old religious practices, including fasting. **True fasting** that received God’s reward could not be contained by the old religious traditions, even as old wineskin could not contain new, unfermented wine. To try to put the two together would only end up in a **mess**, where **both** the **wineskin** and the **wine** would be **ruined**.

The same will happen when Christians try to **fit** their **new Christian beliefs** with their **old lifestyle**.

4. How does trying to **fit** our **new faith** in Christ with our **old lifestyle** ruin both?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Jesus with this week or invite to Celebration.)
