

3. Two Responses

Matthew chapter 9 is filled with examples that overturned what people expected and replaced it with Good News that demonstrated a new kingdom was being ushered in.

In each instance below, what do you see as the old expectation and how did Jesus change it?

- *Matt 9:1-8 Jesus Heals the Paralytic*
- *Matt 9:18-23 The Hemorrhaging Woman's Faith*
- *Matt 9:18-26 Jesus Raises the Dead*
- *Matt 9:32-33 Demons Cast Out*

Matthew 9:33-34 NLT - 33 So Jesus cast out the demon, and then the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed. "Nothing like this has ever happened in Israel!" they exclaimed. 34 But the Pharisees said, "He can cast out demons because he is empowered by the prince of demons."

Based on the two responses in the passage above, who was ready to accept the new, and who wasn't? What is one good new thing that you see God doing through the circumstances of the pandemic?

WRAP-UP

Change isn't often easy. It can make us fearful and anxious as we lose what is familiar. But change can also be the opportunity for God to replace the "good" with the "better". Let's allow God to open our eyes to what new things He might be doing and release the old to make room for the new.

Memory Verse

17 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved." - Matthew 9:14-17 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: _____

Challenge- Seek God for one thing He wants to make new in your life.

"Make Room for New" Pastor David Hutsko

INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 is ending and as it passes, we find ourselves facing the new year with an entirely different perspective in many areas of life. Not that we had a choice in the matter, because 2020 was a disruptor. A disruptor is a person or thing that prevents something from continuing as usual or as expected. The events of this year may forever change our way of doing so many things. But a disruptor can be a good thing. Jesus was the ultimate disruptor. When He entered the scene, it was not business as usual, and that upset a lot of people. Chapter 9 of the Gospel of Matthew shows us that sometimes we need to set aside the old ways to make way for the new.

Ice Breaker

What are some "disruptors" you have seen in your lifetime that entered an industry and entirely changed the way that industry functions? (e.g. Air BnB and hotel industry)

Key Passage

Matthew 9:14-17 NLT - 14 One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, "Why don't your disciples fast like we do and the Pharisees do?" 15 Jesus replied, "Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. 16 "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. 17 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved."

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why Don't You Do What We Do?

Truth be told, we are usually most comfortable around people who are just like us. That was also true of Jesus' day. But Jesus' was ushering in a new kingdom and a new covenant that didn't follow the same rules of the old ways. So, he wasn't doing what everyone else did.

The disciples of John the Baptist asked why Jesus' disciples didn't fast like they did. What do you think He meant by his response to them in v. 15? What had changed that should cause them to celebrate rather than mourn?

Jesus went on to point out what happens when we attempt to patch together the old and the new. In his examples of torn cloth and old wineskins, there was an attempt to fix, rather than replace the old. Unfortunately, both old and new were damaged in the process.

Have you ever experienced a new system or process replacing an old one, like new versions of computer software, or new standards of teaching in school? What happens if people try to use some of the old ways rather than outright adopting the new?

2. What We Miss Versus What Lies Ahead

It can be hard to let go of what we are used to, especially if it worked for us in the past. John's disciples knew the law and tried to be "good people" by following it as best they could. They were so focused on what God had done for hundreds of years that they were missing the new work of Jesus that was right in front of them. But John the Baptist saw what was happening. In John 3:30 he tells his disciples, "He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less." They couldn't have it both ways. In order to embrace what Jesus brought to them, they had to let go of their old ways. Or in the case of John's disciples, stop following John and start following Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:7-9 NLT - 7 The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. 8 Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? 9 If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God!

2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT - 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

The work of Jesus' new covenant didn't fit within the old framework of the Law. The old ways of the Law had proved inadequate to save us. Jesus didn't come to repair our old nature. He came to replace it with a totally new life.

Are you missing something that you are hoping to see return, but that God may be replacing? What if God has "new wine" on the way in need of a new wineskin? Consider what "used to be normal" for each of these areas that you feel God might be calling you to change:

Your Spiritual Life- what rhythms and patterns of your life have previously constituted the expression of your faith? e.g. Attending church, participating in a study, reading a devotional. What new ways God might call you to a deeper expression of faith in Him?

Your Relationships – was a casual connection sufficient in the past, but God is urging a deeper commitment to love your friends and family?

Your Activities – what occupied your time that you could set aside or decrease so that God can replace it with His agenda, whatever that might be for you.

Sometimes we must reduce what's "good" to make room for what's "better"!