"THE MIS-MATCH"

(Man's Ways and Christ's Ways Don't Match!)
Matthew 9:14-17
9/24/2017

INTRODUCTION: V. 14

***Don't mix your old ways with the new life in Jesus Christ.**
(Don't mingle old religion with your new relationship)

Why not?

I. It is <u>inconsistent</u> for Christ to be <u>present</u>
& His children to live lives of <u>misery</u>. (v. 14-15)

II. It is <u>incompatible</u> for Christ to be a <u>part</u>
of man-made, legalistic, religious <u>tradition</u> (v. 16-17)

A. Don't <u>patch</u> the old religion -- replace it! (v. 16)
(New unshrunk patches don't repair old garments)

B. Don't <u>pour</u> into old religion, replace it! (v. 17)
(New unfermented wine doesn't remain in old wineskins)

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Examples of mis-matches (things that are not suited for each other)

(This account also occurs in Mark 2:18-22 and Luke 5:33-39)

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V. 14

"The disciples of John" - these were followers of John the Baptist, whose mission was to prepare people for Christ (Jn. 3:26-36). Many, however, never caught on to John's message (Acts 19:2-5).

The fasting of John's disciples was probably due to their burden for John, who was now in prison (Mt. 4:12)

"The Pharisees fast oft" - Though the Law did not require such, the Pharisees prided themselves in the fact that they fasted "twice" a week (Lk. 18:12).

[NOTE: The Law only required 1 day of national fasting a year: The Day of Atonement, Lev. 16:29-30. This time of fasting was to be an expression of mourning over sin. The phrase *"Afflict your souls. . ."* would imply fasting (Lev. 16:29, 31)]

Many times God's people will be criticized for not complying with the man-made rules and traditions of organized denominational religions.
Implied by their question is this: "If you are greater and more spiritual than John the Baptist and the Pharisees, why is it not evidenced by your disciples? If they are truly spiritual, shouldn't they be fasting and mourning?

One misconception that people have is that Christians cannot have joy; they should always be somber; they should always walk around with their heads bowed; and gloom written all over their faces in continual sorrow because of sin.

While it is true that we should mourn over sin (Mt. 5:4), it is not true that we can never have joy, peace, feelings of liberty, or an abundant and full life.

Jesus came to give *"abundant life"* (Jn. 10:10).

Christians, even in troubles, should *"rejoice and be exceeding glad"* (Mt. 5:12)

"Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say, rejoice" (Phil. 4:4)

Ps. 16:11 - *"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore"*

Jn. 15:11 - *"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."*

I Pet. 1:8 - *"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."*

V. 15

"The children of the bridechamber" - lit. the sons of the bridegroom. These attendants prepared the "room or dining hall in which the marriage ceremonies were held" (Vine, p. 150). They were responsible for the festivities. "The wedding celebration (then and today) was not a time for them to mourn but to rejoice" (MacArthur, p. 69)

"The Christian life is a feast not a funeral" (Wiersbe, p. 35).

Fasting was always linked to prayer and was for the purpose of getting God's attention. A person would be so overwhelmed by some problem or need that they would actually have no desire to eat, but only to seek God.

If the intention of fasting was to get the attention of God, why would anyone fast when God was standing right in front of them? There was no need to fast in Christ's presence, since He was right there to answer their questions, lift their burdens, and come to their aid.

If the disciples of John and the Pharisees had understood who Jesus was, they would not have asked such a question.

"Children" - depicts the Sons of God (those belonging to Christ)

[Every son of God (Jn. 1:12) is part of the Bride of Christ (Rev. 19:7-9)]

"The Bridegroom" - depicts Jesus Christ

[Note: The *"Friend of the Bridegroom"* = John the Baptist, who as the Best Man, prepared the way for the Groom and His marriage - SEE: John 3:28-30]

"Shall be taken away" - a reference to the death of Christ, after which time a season of *"fasting"* was forthcoming (SEE: John 16:20-22)

II. It is <u>incompatible</u> for Christ to be a <u>part</u> of man-made, legalistic, religious <u>tradition</u> (v. 16-17)

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V. 16

"New cloth" - Unshrunk.

What would happen if you took a fresh, new, unshrunk piece of wool cloth and put it on an old garment that had already shrunk?

Answer: When the patched garment was washed, the unshrunk portion would shrink, thus reducing itself in size, and would pull itself away from the old garment, making the tear larger and harder to repair than when you started.

"The illustration of the *<u>cloth</u>* reminds us that He came to bring spiritual wholeness; He did not come to "patch us up" and then let us fall apart." (Wiersbe, p. 35)

Christ came to bring something new! Not to repair the old!

B. Don't <u>pour</u> into old religion, replace it! (v. 17)
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"Wine was often stored in animal skins that were specially prepared for that purpose. The hide would be uncut except at the legs and neck, and sometimes would be turned inside out. The leg openings would be stitched closed and sealed, and the neck was used as a spout, which was tied with a leather thong or string." (MacArthur, p. 70).

"Old bottles" **-** would be bottles that have expanded due to previous fermentation of wine (they would also be dry and cracked).

"The image of the *<u>wineskins</u>* teaches that He gives spiritual fullness. Jewish religion was a worn-out wineskin that would burst if filled with the new wine of the Gospel. Jesus did not come to renovate Moses or even mix Law and grace. He came with new life!" (Wiersbe, p. 35).

II Cor. 5:17 - *"All things are become new!"*

Many who are stuck on the "old," who are sold on it, don't question it. . . they are not open for change, do not desire the "New"!

Luke 5:39 teaches that people are reluctant to change, even when the old life is not really better, though they may think so.

Those who are inebriated by the old will not immediately be turned on to the new. It may take time,b ut be patient!

"New wine" - unfermented grape juice

Joshua 9:13 - *"And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey."*

Isaiah 65:8 - *"Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all."*

Matt. 26:29 - *"But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

The generic word *"wine"* (oinos) without a qualifying adjective could refer to new or old wine, depending on the context. It is most consistent that Jesus created new wine out of water (Jn. 2).

[NOTE: The translation "new wine" in Acts 2:13 is a mistranslation - "gleukous" should be translated "sweet wine."]

Should Christians drink wine? No, not if it is alcoholic. Why not?

1) It violates Scriptural teaching (Prov. 20:1 - *"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."*

2) It is addictive and destructive (Prov. 23:29-35)

3) It is symbolic of worldliness (in our indulgent, pleasure-orientated society) (EX: Daniel's convictions - Dan. 1:8).

4) It inhibits good judgment and sound thinking (Lev. 10:8-11 - "*And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.*"

5) It leads to riotous behavior (Eph. 5:18 - *"Excess"* - riotous, wild, and unruly behavior)

*6) It is a potential stumbling block (Rom. 14:21 - *"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."*)

Jesus did not teach a reformed Judaism.

John Calvin and Martin Luther would have been wider had they begun entirely over, rather than attempting to reform (hence, "Reformation") the Roman Catholic Church.

The Pharisees' legalistic, external, self-righteous system of traditional Judaism was diametrically opposed to Christianity. This is why clashes occurred. Persecution by the "old" was inevitable!

This opposition proves the incompatibility of the two. We should learn the same lesson from the Roman Catholic Church, which tortured God's people in the Dark Ages.

CONCLUSION:

The point:
A new patch must be put on a new garment. New wine must be put into new wineskins.

The meaning:

It is foolish to take Christ's message and mission and attach it to Judaism with the goal of trying to "Christianize" Judaism.

Christ + Law does not equal salvation.

Christ + works do not amount to eternal life.

It is Christ only!

NOTE: The book of Galatians and the problem of the Judaizers.

Christ is not an "additive" that you add to the crank case of your life to improve the performance of your efforts.

He is not a "supplement" that you add to bolster your spiritual vitamins.

Jesus is incompatible to those whose lives are filled up with religion and self-righteousness.

It is not Christ plus the works of the law for salvation. It is Christ who fulfilled the Law for us (Mt. 5:17) and Christ in us (II Cor. 5:21). Only Christ for salvation!

Rom. 3:20, 28 - *"Therefore by the deeds of the Law there shall not flesh be justified in His sight: for by the Law is the knowledge of sin. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law"*

Acts 13:39 - *"And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."*

Gal. 2:16 - *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."*

Eph. 2:9 - "*Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (Jn. 1:17)

All forms of legalism are attempts by man to add to Christ's finished work for salvation.

Example:

1) 7th Day Adventism
(Christ plus Sabbath keeping)

2) United Church of Christ (U.C.C.)
(Christ plus baptism)

3) Roman Catholic Church
(Christ plus Mary & Sacraments)

Anything in our lives that is unsuitable, mis-matched, clashing, inconsistent, contradictory, or in disharmony with what Christ wants for us must go!

Many of Christianity's methodologies are adaptations of dead, formal Christianity.

We need:

--A willingness to <u>change</u> anything that is hindering Christ to work in and through us. If the <u>structure</u> is incongruent with Christ, change it!

--A willingness to <u>let go</u> of "old baggage" that keeps us from accepting Christ or that slows us down in living for Christ