

NOTHING CHANGES UNLESS YOU CHANGE

Luke 5:33-39 (NIV) 33 They said to him, “John’s disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.” 34 Jesus answered, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? 35 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.” 36 He told them this parable: “No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. 37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better.’”

Depending on your age, I want you to recognize that each year God has allowed you to live through has been an opportunity to get closer to His will and the destiny He created you for.

- If you are 16 years old, God has given you 16 chances to do that; if you are 44 years old, God has given you 44 chances to move closer to your reason for being.
- The bible tells us that it was destined for man to live and die once and thereafter face judgment. This means that each person will have to give an account for every year they have lived.
- The start of every year allows you to reset and try things differently. That is why church attendance and gym attendance are very high at the beginning of the year.
- The question is, why is it that a few people can follow through and get closer to their destiny? The answer to that question is what informed the title of my message this morning.
- I want to talk to you on a message titled **NOTHING CHANGES UNLESS YOU CHANGE**.
- Israel had been waiting for the Messiah for over 700 years, but when He came, Israel could not receive Him. John tells us that He went to His own, but His own rejected Him.
- This is what you need to know: God is ready to promote you, but are you ready for promotion?
- The Jews were not ready to receive the spiritual promotion that Jesus was ushering in.
- Jesus came with a message of liberty, freedom, and accessibility to God, but the Jews were not willing to move forward. They were still stuck in their past ways of worship.
- In other words, promotion was right before them, but they were not ready for promotion.
- That is why I am saying, nothing will change unless you change. Jesus looked at the religious leaders and found a people who were not ready to change.
- They were only prepared for a mere cosmetic change and not a radical transformation.
- The religious leaders were aware that fasting was a tool they had used before to humble themselves as they approached God.

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- That was what they knew as a way of approaching God. They expected the disciples of the new rabbi to continue doing the same. When they saw the disciples of Jesus not fasting, they were concerned about their lack of spirituality, and hence the question verse in 33:

Luke 5: 33 They said to him, “John’s disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.”

- Fasting enabled them to approach God, but what the Levites did not realise was that the God they had been pursuing through fasting had come down to them in person.
- Instead of going back to their old ways of approaching Him, they needed to grab the moment and fully enjoy the moment by sitting under His feet.
- What was the problem? The problem was that they were stuck in religiosity that blinded them from acknowledging Jesus as the Messiah.
- Look at what was the response of Jesus:

Luke 5: ”34 Jesus answered, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? 35 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.”

- It was not the time to fast because what they were fasting to have access to had been brought to them. The friends of the bridegroom were supposed to celebrate and enjoy the bridegroom.
- The religious leaders were comfortable in their old ways, but God had moved on and had come down to them in person.
- Change is never comfortable, but nothing gets better without change.

Luke 5: 39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better.’”

- People have said things like:
 - We have always done it like that,
 - There is nothing new you can teach me,
 - If it’s not broken, don’t fix it.
- I have never drunk wine, but those who drink will tell you old wine tests better than new wine, it is comfortable to drink and is not as aggressive as the new wine.
- It allows you to fully enjoy it because it does not have the same bite and does not easily intoxicate as the new wine.
- This is a metaphorical or proverbial statement that speaks of people’s old ways of carnality, which do not make room for the new wine of the gospel that transforms everything about a man’s life.
- The new wine of the gospel of Jesus placed a higher demand on the lives of the religious leaders, and they were not ready to change their ways.
- Old habits don’t place a demand on you – no brain power is required to operate in old habits.

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- But old habits will eventually experience diminishing returns.
- When the Lord wants to move you forward, He releases a new grace, He exposes you to a new dimension of His anointing.
- He starts off by hinting to you, giving you previews of what He is about to do. He starts speaking through His word about the new thing He is about to do.

Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

- Yesterday's thought patterns and ways are not sufficient to steward today's grace.
- Nothing changes unless you change – God will not fully release what He is about to do unless you cooperate in transforming yourself, in changing your mindset.
- You will remain stuck in 2025; in fact, some people are still in 2000 because they have not gone ahead to upgrade their habits so that they are aligned with what God is doing.

Luke 5: 37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.

- Something must change in you so that God can release the anointing and the grace for the new season.
- Yes, you are born again, yes, the Lord loves you, but the Lord is not wasteful at the same time.
- Jesus is looking for a new wineskin before He can release the new wine. New wine requires new wineskins.
- You need to work on yourself so that everything in you aligns with the new season before you.
- Paul gives us an idea of how you can position yourself into a new wineskin.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God.

- You cannot operate on the same level of thinking as last year and expect different outcomes.
- Like Paul exhorted the Roman church, you are being exhorted to renew your thoughts.
- Jesus came with something totally different and the religious leaders could not depart from their old ways.
- Let me give you some considerations on your journey to becoming a new wineskin:

1. Grow in grace over the law (Mark 2:16)

- Jesus came full grace and truth and that was in contrast to the religious leaders. Jesus was motivated by grace and not by legalism and law.

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- When Jesus sees a vessel ready to express grace, He will release His anointing and grace.
- In Mark 2:16, Jesus called Matthew the tax collector and later dined with other tax collectors.
- This was totally unacceptable to the Pharisees, as they could not stand giving attention to sinners like tax collectors.
- Jesus came for the sick and not for the healthy. We are called to love the unlovable, the forgotten, the worst of sinners, the unacceptable.

2. Pursue relationship over tradition

- Jesus was after a relationship rather than rituals and religious traditions. Many people view their relationship with Jesus as transactional.
- We pray when we need something, and we come to church when we need something from God.
- The new wineskin that Jesus is looking for is motivated by relationship rather than rituals.
- Where we read, we see the Levites asking why Jesus' disciples were not fasting, and for them, fasting was equivalent to being close to Jesus.
- True devotion is not about appearances; it's about a relationship with Him. You can fast as much as you want, but if your heart is not connected to Jesus, no amount of fasting will release the anointing.
- Rituals like fasting are important, but they don't equate to having a place in the heart of God. You must pursue a living relationship with Jesus to become a new wineskin that can receive the new wine.

3. Apply spiritual wisdom to all of life

- Jesus was the most practical religious leader and yet His pragmatism was despised by the religious leaders.
- Your wine skin will remain dry and old as long as you are not applying God's word to all of life.
- When faced with the issue of taxes, Jesus paid His taxes – in Matthew 17:24-27, Jesus asked Peter to go and get some money so that He could pay His temple taxes.
- If God is going to release finances in your life, you will have to be faithful in paying taxes and earning your income through godly means this year.
- Someone must decide to start putting all the truths you have collected over the years into practice.
- After Jesus fed the 5000, He requested that the leftovers be collected so that nothing would go to waste.

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- You have to develop a prudent mindset, otherwise you will not make progress in 2026.
- When the disciples had been working for a long time and were tired, Jesus asked them to take time out and rest for a moment.

Mark 6:31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

- You cannot work yourself to the ground by violating the Sabbath principle – rest is a mindset we need to embrace.
- Development a rest mindset in 2026. You need to know that your rest determines the rest of your life.
- Jesus was not driven by popularity or by mere needs around Him. His ministry was focused and He was swayed by crowds.
- You need to be purposeful in your approach to live. You don't have to address every need that comes your way. You can't please every person that comes your way.
- Look at what Jesus did:

Luke 4: 42 At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. 43 But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.”

- Jesus wanted to go and pray but the crowd wanted His attention. Jesus wanted to reach other areas with the gospel.
- Being purposeful helped Him to say no to the demands of the crowd.
- Jesus knew how to deal with negative emotions like rejection. You need to know how to manage negative emotions.
- Rejection is one of those emotions that if you don't know how to respond, it will paralyze you.
- Jesus did wallow in pits of rejections – when the village of Nazareth rejected him, He simply shifted His focus on another geographical location.
- When Samaria rejected Jesus, instead of being upset with the village, Jesus simply shifted His attention to others.
- The disciples wanted to kill but Jesus had a different mindset. The old ways will cause you to kill those who reject you.
- The new mindset will keep you from sinning against God in the face of rejection.

Luke 9:51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans,

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to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village