Luke 5 33-35

New Wine New wineskins

Lord your word shows us new things about you every time we read it. We pray thins morning for you to inform our minds, brings truth to our hearts and lift you in glory. Amen

This scripture today challenges us to move out of our comfort zone. Our comfort Zone is our default cosy position that we know and love and are quite happy to work at preserving against the challenge of change and new things.

I didn’t know really as a family we were stepping out of our comfort Zone so much when we moved to China 11 years ago. We lived there for nearly 3 years. You’d think we’d have a clue – particularly not speaking Mandarin and being a different country but the reality of moving out of our comfort Zone was often exhausting, always challenging, sometime seemingly ridiculous as we tried to make sense of a new way of living - in a different culture and country.

Not everyone goes to China - you will all have had real experiences of being way out of your comfort zone in life- perhaps in a new job, or on holiday in another culture, dealing with grandchildren and the youth culture and so on….

Turn to your neighbour and if you’d like to share a time when you have been challenged out of your comfort zone.

2 minutes

The Pharisees and religious people of the day were being challenged way out of their comfort Zone and what they knew with the arrival and teaching of Jesus.

Luke paints a detailed picture for us about the new life Jesus was displaying to his disciples and those around him. He sat with sinners, he socialised with tax collectors and talked to prostitutes. He miraculously healed the sick and cast out demons, He forgave people of their sins…v21 v30 this was new stuff - shocking and miraculous at the same time. He got out there and brought new wine - the kingdom of God to all people. new creation was happening in front of their eyes that challenged the status quo and they didn’t like it.

What was happening? They knew all the rules and regulations for the Jewish faith and this was not part of it?

Stemmed from a question

V33 - why don’t your disciples fast? They wanted to know why because the Pharisees fasted often twice a week as well as great national days of fasting and they fasted while in mourning as an established custom. Fasting was part of their religious life- yet here was Jesus and his disciples didn’t appear to fast.

Jesus did go on to teach about fasting in Matthew 6 16- 18 when he says when you fast don’t make yourself look sad like the hypocrites. They put on suffering faces so that people will see they are fasting. The truth is that’s all the reward they will get- no go and wash, make yourself look nice and fast then no one will know except your father in heaven and he will reward you.

Jesus replied to this question by taking them a walk through a wedding, when he talks about the bridegroom in verse 34, to a tailors shop talking about the patched cloth and finally in verse 36 to the vintner’s 37 when he used the imagery of wineskins,,, You An understanding of this could be is the

Jesus as head of the church- as the bridegroom,

Jesus as the new covenant - the new cloth and

Jesus’s death and blood as the new wine.

First

V 36Noone tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If they do they will have torn the new garment and the patch from the new will not match the old.

Visually quite helpful and the image is one we can understand today. We actually don’t do much patching these days but we can imagine if the patched garment got wet the new patch would shrink at a different rate than the old garment and both would tear. it is helpful to understand that the new does not match the old but each has its useful purpose.

Second:

37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins . If they do the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.

Helps to know a bit of context:

Wineskins were containers made of animal skin- usually Goat that were sew together to carry liquid- oil, milk, olive oil, butter, wine…. They formed watertight bags.

New wine goes through a process of fermentation and expands over several months if not years and needs to be put in new wineskins so the bag expands with the fermentation process. They expand together. Once the expansion of the wineskin is at its limit it becomes rigid and will not expand anymore. So if you fill an old wineskin with new wine it will simply start fermenting and the wineskin is at full elasticity and the fermentation process will burst the bag open spoiling the wineskin and the wine.

The Pharisees were like a rigid old wineskins who would not accept Jesus - the new wine is the image used for the blood of Jesus because he could not be contained in their existing rules, regulations and structures. The old way would not hold the new way. Times, the ongoing creation of God was moving and changing.

What stopped the Pharisees adapting and accepting Jesus?

Their ritual and rules had become their idol and this caused them to shut their minds to new possibilities - the possibility that Jesus was the Messiah and was fulfilment of the new creation.

If we look through Biblical history the HS always doing something new through those who heard him and obeyed him:

Noah built a boat

Abraham left home not knowing where he was going

Told Gideon to send home all but 300 of his soldiers just before attacking his army

Mary had a miraculous conception….. God was moving in by his Holy Spirit from the inside to be with us on earth through the birth of Jesus.

The HS could be defined as

God’s activity amongst his creation.

The moving and speaking of God - some of which we can actually detect.

The word translated Spirit in both Hebrew and Greek literally means breath or wind. The Greek word is Pneuma- like we get pneumatic. It is the power of air.

11.15- discuss

CHALLENGE

It is not that the OT is bad - it tells us so much about the character and purposes of God in the overall Biblical story- what was happening here was a move of the Spirit.

The old wineskins could not hold this move of the Spirit new wineskins were needed.

1 Corinth 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come. “

The church needs to hear the challenge of this text

Are we able to receive the new wine of Christ? It means being born again into his new creation- trusting him to the point of total surrender and being prepared to go beyond our comfort zones. This is about informing our minds of biblical truth and applying it.

WE are challenged on 2 levels:

Challenged as individuals

Challenged as church

Individuals

Are we willing to receive the new wine and move out of our comfort zone as the HS calls?

I’ve met people who hear the HS to live somewhere yet they would rather live somewhere else and they move to the place God calls them. And he blesses them.

I’ve met people doing jobs longer than they wish because the HS has said stay put for while then I will show you.

I’ve met people who have suffered really bad physical ill health and suffered yet but moved to great joy and peace knowing Jesus for the firs time and being filled with the HS.

Age is no barrier - I was at a baptism earlier this year when a 91 year old stood alongside a 15 year old to be baptised having chosen to walk with Jesus and each gave their testimony. beautiful image.

Jesus is saying receive the new wine- let your hearts be ready to receive me and as it says in Matthew 7:7 Ask and it shall be given to you.

CHURCH CHALLENGE

Our church meetings, worship times and lives should not be so rigid to prevent us from a fresh touch of the Spirit, a new method, a new way.

First is that the movement which derives its name from this parable, [New Wine](https://www.new-wine.org/), has never called for new or separate structures within the denominations in which it works (principally but not exclusively the Church of England.) Secondly, David Pytches, the founder of the movement, famously called the parish system the ‘prophylactic of the Church of England’. But this structure has not been scrapped. Instead, partly through Bishop’s Mission Orders, church planting has been allowed to happen flexibly within and across this parochial structure without the structure itself being scrapped.

Egs: Training ordinands- chaplaincy, pioneer, research, youth movement….

Teaching /sermon series in new year - move of the Spirit /gifts of the spirit

So, what is the ‘new wine’ God is pouring into your life at the moment, and are you being flexible like ‘new wineskins’ into order to receive it—without scorning the old thing that God did in your life yesterday?

Closing prayer.

Scriptures for reflection (11.15 service)

When we say yes our old life is buried and we are born anew. In baptism we were buried with him into death and just as Christ raised from the dead we are raised in Him too. Rom 6 3-4

Esek 36:26

I will give you a enw heart and put a new spirit in you I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

2 Corinthians 3:6

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant - not of the letter but of the Spirit for the letter kills and the Spirit gives life

Heb 10:20

By a new way that leads to life! And this way takes us through the curtain that is Christ himself.

2 Peter 3:13

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells.

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