

Date: April 11, 2021

Pastor Steven Hardy

Series: New Wine, New Wineskins

Title: New Wine Needs New Wineskins

Text: Luke 5:27-39

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). It is a matter of practical observation, and the spring season now upon us is a reminder that “new” often brings with it hope of renewal and life. Yet new seasons mean change, and change is something we humans often struggle with. Jesus addressed this in response to questions about his own style of ministry, with words that should help us process change.

I. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ for everything (and there will always be “\_\_\_\_\_”).

A. Here we see the \_\_\_\_\_ of the new in contrast to \_\_\_\_\_ in the old, vv. 28-30. See also Luke 18:9-14.

B. Now was the time for a fresh \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus, vv. 31-32.

C. Different \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ call for different ways, vv. 33-35.

II. The \_\_\_\_\_ was once new (and does \_\_\_\_\_ in effectiveness), vv. 36-37.

A. Of old \_\_\_\_\_ and old \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Why \_\_\_\_\_?

III. New wine will always \_\_\_\_\_ new wineskins, vv. 38-39.

A. This is the only way to avoid \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Ideally change allows both old and new to fulfill their ordained

\_\_\_\_\_.

As God’s plan for the world unfolds, seasons change. The winter coat that was so appreciated in January may not be the best choice in the July sun. Jesus made a strong statement about the necessity of putting the crop of the new season into fresh containers, implying that change is no option if you want to avoid ruin.



Talk about some “new” things you have experienced as a family. New clothes, or perhaps together you have gotten a new car or home, or you may share stories of “new” from your past. What was it like to have the new? How did it feel to give up the old? What changing circumstances led to the need or desire for the new? What would have happened if you instead held on to the old? Point out that “old” and “new” are neither inherently good or bad, but simply right for the particular time or season.

### **FOR FURTHER THOUGHT, STUDY AND DISCUSSION**

1. In the broad overview of the Bible, Scripture begins with new, the creation of the universe, and it ends with new, Revelation 21:1-5. The story of redemption is basically one of renewal. In what ways do we tend to view new things in negative light? Why do you think this is, and (in contrast) why does God seem to delight in “new”?
2. Why would anyone want to preserve an “old garment”, especially if it was torn or had a hole in it (Luke 5:3)? How determined would he have to be about preserving the old to tear a new garment for a “patch”? Is this just a ridiculous illustration, or was Jesus addressing something deep in our human nature? What is it, and what was Jesus saying? He says, “no one” does this...or in certain ways, do we?
3. The illustration of the new wine and new wineskins (Luke 5:37-38) involves substance (wine) and container (wineskins). Jesus was relating this illustration to some change in religious customs as the container for something else that was new. Based on the story of Levi’s conversion (Luke 5:27-32), identify some aspects of the new “container” (customs), and the new “substance” Jesus was bringing. What about that new substance would require a change in certain customs (for instance, of the religious Pharisees of the day)?
4. The cyclical nature of life seemed to fill Solomon, author of Ecclesiastes, with emptiness (Ecclesiastes 1:1-11). Is he right that the cycles spin leading nowhere, and there is “nothing new under the sun” (1:9)? In what sense was the “new wine” Jesus brought in his season more than a cycle, but actually progression toward a defined, purposeful future? Why is this difference (cycle vs. progress) a key to understanding the value and importance of change? What questions should it lead us to ask when we encounter and begin to process inevitable change? Be assured—a new season will bring new wine!

**NEXT WEEK:** – “The Old is Good,” Luke 5:39

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