



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

The Parable of the
Friends of the
Bridegroom
(Mark. 2:18-20)

**In overstepping
the boundary line**

of Jewish religious
and social etiquette,

the Lord performed an act
of great significance,
which was sure to call forth

criticism.

The Lord Jesus did not come into the world, as some suppose, to be nothing more than a law-giver, a king, a teacher, and an example.

Had this been all the purpose of His coming, there would have been small comfort for man.

Mark 2:18

And John's disciples

and the Pharisees

were fasting: and they come
and said unto him,

Why do John's disciples and the
disciples of the Pharisees fast,
but your disciples fast not?

19 And Jesus said unto them, Can the sons of the bridechamber fast, **while the bridegroom is with them?**

as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

20 But the days will
come, when the
bridegroom shall be
taken away from them,
and then will they
fast in that day.

Inadequate
knowledge,

when linked
with **malice,**

will put the worst twist
upon the best actions.

The moral code of the day

was invoked to condemn Christ in mingling with the **publicans**.

No trouble was taken to ascertain **the true character**
of the feast.

By their criticism
the **Pharisees** exposed their own
hollow spiritual lives.

The Pharisees
condemned themselves

in seeking to condemn Christ.

Great care and **soul searching**
should be taken before judgment
is passed upon
the actions of others,
especially when their **character**
is known to be good.

There may be
good reasons
for fasting.

However, the trouble with the
Pharisees was that in far too many
cases their fasting was for
self-display.

It was to call the attention of men
to their goodness.

The Pharisees actually
whitened their faces
and went about with
disheveled garments
on their fast days
so that no one could miss the fact
that they were fasting
and so that everyone would see and
admire their devotion.

The Lord Jesus came into the world to be **a physician** as well as **a teacher**.

He knew the **necessities of human nature**.

He saw us all sick of a mortal disease,
stricken with the plague of sin,
and dying daily.

He pitied us, and came down to bring **divine medicine**
for our relief.

He came to give health and
cure to the dying,
to heal the broken hearted,
and to offer strength
to the weak.

No sin-sick soul
is too far gone for Him.

It is **His glory** to heal and restore
to life the most desperate cases.

For **unfailing** skill,
for **unwearied** tenderness,
the **great Physician**
stands alone.

There is **none** like Him.

After Jesus called
Matthew Levi
to be a disciple
he went to Levi's house
to enjoy a meal

It must have been a situation similar
to any of the times when we
might gather for a meal

We don't get together to be miserable,

We get together to enjoy
the time and each other

As is often the case,
those critical of Jesus
saw an opportunity
to find fault.

More concerned with
censuring
the conduct of others
than in rectifying their own.

They desired that Jesus
should regulate
his righteousness by theirs

And embrace
their particular
customs and forms of devotion.

Comparing themselves
with other people.

That they may have an opportunity of
exalting themselves.

In that setting,
Jesus told one of
his short parables
to communicate
something important
about
himself
and
God's kingdom.

**At the dinner,
Jesus chose to eat
with a suspicious crowd**

Luke 5:29

there was a great number of
tax collectors present

Mark 2:16

also other
"sinners"

As one might expect
that there was an
air of enjoyment

However,
others knew about
the dinner party

Scribes and Pharisees
were thinking how can he eat
with this bunch of riff-raff?

They could not understand_
that Jesus came to help
people just like this.

We still struggle
with that same conflict today

Even the disciples of John
were critical

They and the Pharisees made
a regular practice of fasting

It appears from the text
they might have been fasting
on the very day that Jesus
was enjoying the dinner party.

To them, religion was composed of rigorous rules and traditions,
and there was
little to enjoy about it

They could
not understand
Jesus or his disciples

Their criticism came out of an inability to
explain what seemed like
non-religious behavior.

The opposition can never be satisfied.

• Matthew 11:18

**For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say,
He hath a demon.**

**• 19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say,
Behold, a gluttonous man
and a winebibber,
a friend of publicans and sinners!**

- We might note a couple of points about the critics of Jesus

- It is very easy to take one's own religious practice, that may be acceptable as one's own personal expression, and turn it into something

- that is equal to
God's standard and requirement

Those who already
harbor ill-will
or prejudice
against someone
tend to always
see or believe
the worst
about the other person

**It was in that setting
that Jesus then told
the story
which answers
the criticism**

**THE PARABLE
OF THE
FRIENDS OF THE
BRIDEGROOM**

Mark 2:19-20

- **Mark 2:19-20**

And Jesus said to them,

"Can the friends of the bridegroom fast
while the bridegroom is with them?

- As long as they have
the bridegroom with them
they cannot fast.

- But the days will come when
**the bridegroom will be taken away from
them, and then they will fast in those days.**"

**This little story was intended
to communicate
a single point:**

**The presence of Jesus
is reason to celebrate,
not mourn.**

John 10:10

**The thief cometh not,
but for to steal, and to kill,
and to destroy:**

**I am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more abundantly.**

**The real question is not,
"Why isn't Jesus and his
disciples fasting?"**

**It's really,
"Why isn't everyone else
celebrating the fact
that God's Son
is among them?"**

These people had no idea
who was with them

John 4:10

Jesus answered and said to her, ""If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

If people had only realized who Jesus was, it would have changed their entire outlook

When one realizes

who Jesus is

and

what he came to do.....

how can one not celebrate?

**Jesus relieves us of
tedious religious ritual like fasting**

There are examples of fasting,
but there is no regulation
or burdensome ritual to follow...
only the expression of
a heart full of faith

We still struggle to keep our practices
from becoming ritualized

Jesus came to bring joy

He does speak of a time when
the bridegroom is taken away and
there would be

no feasting

then **fasting** would be appropriate
because of their sorrow.

However, that time is short-lived
because of the resurrection

John 3:29

**He who has the bride
is the bridegroom;**

**but the friend of the bridegroom,
who stands and hears him,**

rejoices greatly

because of the bridegroom's voice.

Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

People tend to resist changes even when those changes are created by God

Look at how the religious leader resisted what Jesus taught

Look at how the masses resisted Jesus' effort to change them

Look at how people today resist following God's word

Look at how, even religious people, so often make their religion a chore rather than a change

In the setting of this parable,
the people are asking Jesus,
**"What's wrong with you
and your disciples?"**

But again, the real question isn't
what's wrong with Jesus, it's,
"What's wrong with us?"

God has given us reason
to **celebrate.**

Jesus is reason enough
to discard every burden and sorrow

- Jesus knew quite well that he was coming with a message which was startlingly new;

- He also knew that his way of life was extremely different from that of the orthodox teaching of the day.

- He also knew how difficult it is for the minds of men to accept new truth;

- And so he uses two illustrations to show how necessary it is to be open to truth.

- He speaks of the danger of sewing a new patch on an old garment.
- It may well be that there are times when we try to patch,
 - When what is necessary is the complete abandonment of the old
and the acceptance of something new.

Wine was kept in wineskins.

When these skins were new
they had a certain elasticity;

As they grew old they
became hard and unyielding.

Jesus is pleading for
a certain elasticity in our minds.

It is fatally easy to
become set in our ways.

As they grow older
almost everyone develops
a constitutional dislike
of that which is
new and unfamiliar.

We grow very unwilling
to make any adjustments
in our habits and ways of life.

**Abraham went out
not knowing where he was going.
(Hebrews 11:8.)**

**There is another great verse
in that same chapter of Hebrews:**

**"By faith Jacob,
when dying,
blessed each of the sons; of Joseph
bowing in worship
over the head of his staff."
(Hebrews 11:21.)**

With the breath of death

upon him the old traveller

He still had his pilgrim staff

in his hand.

To the end of the day,

with the evening now upon him,

he was still ready for the road.

Are you ready?

**Are you ready to allow Jesus
to challenge your life?**

**Are you ready to allow Jesus
to change your life
for the better.**

**Are you ready to allow Jesus
to fill your life with
joy and thankfulness?**

**Doors of the church
are open.**

Spirit & Bride Say

“Come” .

Revelation 22:17

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