



Message Discussion Guide Week of March 3, 2024

Message: Power Surge, Part 6: Paradigm Shift

Key Scriptures: [Mark 2:18-22](#)

Preacher: Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

The people of Galilee experienced something very special during the early days of Jesus' ministry: a power surge of miraculous healings and exorcisms unlike the world had ever known.

- All the people were amazed and full of awe and wonder...except for the religious authorities. They questioned Jesus' authority, his associations, and his spiritual practices.

In Jewish tradition, fasting was used during seasons of sorrow and grief, as an act of repentance, and as a sign of devotion to God.

- John's disciples fasted because of their grief over his imprisonment.
- Pious Pharisees fasted twice a week as a sign of their devotion to God.
- Jesus and his disciples didn't fast at all. Instead, they feasted at tables with sinners. Jesus was questioned about this.

Jesus responds by sharing analogy to marriage in which he is the groom and his disciples are the wedding guests.

- In Jewish tradition, weddings were a taste of heaven, with a weeklong celebration of joy. They were not times for fasting.
- The coming of the Messiah was envisioned as a wedding banquet in which the Messiah is the groom and all the nations are invited guests.
- Jesus is declaring that he is the Messiah, come to inaugurate the banquet feast of heaven!

The reason the religious leaders fail to understand Jesus is because they are trying to squeeze Jesus into old religious categories. But Jesus came to bring something totally new – you can't pour new wine into old wineskins.

- Sometimes we mistakenly think that we can fold a little Jesus into our already established lives. But Jesus wants to make us a new creation.
- Jesus did come to put a patch on our broken hearts, he came to give us a new heart.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) What do you think it was like to be in Galilee in the days when Jesus was there? Would you have been a believer or a skeptic? Would you have reacted to him with awe and wonder or with suspicion and doubt? Why?
- 2.) Why did the religious leaders of Jesus' day struggle to believe he was the Messiah? What made them reject his message? What made them want to see him eliminated?
- 3.) [Read Mark 2:18-22](#)
 - a. Is Jesus opposed to the spiritual practice of fasting? Why or why not?
 - b. What is Jesus' reason for not encouraging his disciples to fast?
 - c. What does Jesus mean by the analogies of the new patch on old clothing and new wine in old wineskins?
 - d. What do you hear in Jesus' words that challenges you? Inspires you? Confuses you?
- 4.) Pastor Tom said you can't just fold Jesus into your already established patterns of life. What does it mean to "sprinkle Jesus in?" Have you ever done that? What does it mean to be emptied of yourself so that Jesus can come in?
- 5.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?