

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
Paul Gunn, Pastor

Sermon title: The Illustration of the Patches and Wineskins, Mark 2:21-22

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Would you turn to Mark, Chapter 2? I'm going to read verses 21 and 22.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2:21-22 ²¹ *“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse.”* ²² *And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.”*

INTRODUCTION: Last week, I preached about how the Pharisees questioned Jesus over the fast. The Pharisees and their followers were fasting, but Jesus and his followers were not fasting. And, the Pharisees wanted to know why. So, Jesus compared his life on earth to that of a wedding ceremony—or that of an upcoming wedding ceremony would be a better way to look at it. And, as we studied the passage last week, I asked the question, *Who would call a fast during a wedding?* No one. *Welcome to today's wedding. We don't have any meal, no refreshments, and nothing to drink because we're calling a fast.* No one would do that. And, when Jesus was with his disciples, he compared himself to the groom throwing a wedding feast. And, then Jesus went on to predict there would be a day when he would not be with his people, and they would fast.

If you want to know more about last week's message, you can check out our church website and click on the sermon for January 31, 2016. Go to thbc.com and click on sermons. I appreciate Don King for uploading our messages each week, and I appreciate Terry Taylor and Kim Wood for working on our website. We hope to keep adding things to make it your first stop when getting information about the church.

So the summary statement from last week's message is this: Jesus said he came to bring joy. Then Jesus said he was bringing in something else as well. I'll share this with you this morning. Here they are:

1. Jesus said he was bringing a whole new way of relating to God.
2. Jesus' illustration meant he was the only way.

First, JESUS SAID HE WAS BRINGING A WHOLE NEW WAY OF RELATING TO GOD.

The Law of Moses had its weaknesses. I spent the better half of last year preaching through the Book of Hebrews about this very topic. If you participated in that study with me, then you know how much we all learned.

But, Jesus came to bring a whole new way of relating to God. I wonder if the Pharisees thought Jesus was just bringing some new truths to patch up the old truths. Maybe they thought Jesus brought in some new truths to patch up the gaps in the Law of Moses.

ILLUSTRATION: As I prepared for this, I was thinking about the scripture where Jesus said no one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth onto an old garment...except a dumb college student named Paul Gunn who tried that. And, he didn't think about the scripture when he tried it. I had an old pair of Levi's with holes in it. I was trying to get another about four or five years out of that pair of jeans. So, I went and bought some patches, and I decided I was going to be the seamstress in my own life. I patched them up, put them in the wash, and guess what? When I got those pants out of the wash, they were completely ruined. Why? Because the patches had not been shrunk. They had not been washed, and they were not pre-shrunk. Those jeans were deformed when they came out of the laundry.

ILLUSTRATION: This passage of scripture reminded me most of us have computers. Every now and then, including this past week, I get a notice that a software update is available. When I have some spare time, I'll let the updates load on my computer. A few times, I've gotten notices that patches were ready to repair shortcomings in the system.

Well, a long time ago, I had a computer that received all the updates the manufacturer offered. A notice came out saying they would no longer provide service for the operating system which had become obsolete. Of course, it made me angry because I tend to hold onto products until way passed their life.

EXPLANATION: But, the Law of Moses had served God’s people well for a long time, and God decided one day, he would no longer service the Old Law, in a manner of speaking. When Jesus came, he rendered the Law obsolete. He rendered the Law fulfilled, and he brought about a new way.

ILLUSTRATION: My family had a nice Buick Park Avenue. It was a good family car. My kids practically grew up in that car. Somewhere around 275,000 miles, car parts became hard to find. When the car reached 325,000 miles, I spent Saturdays in junk yards around the state scavenging for parts. On several occasions at Pull Apart, I was the only person in the junkyard who didn’t speak Spanish. When the car reached 355,000 miles, I couldn’t even find the parts I needed in junkyards. I told Susan: *The old car has served us well. It’s time to get rid of it.* It was no longer adequate. So, I did what every man would do in this situation. I traded the car for a several racks of BBQ ribs. You see, at some point, the car became more of a burden than it was worth.

EXPLANATION: The Law of Moses went many, many miles with God’s people. It became a burden, and when Jesus came, the Law was fulfilled. And, therefore, it was no longer needed.

When Jesus talked about new cloth being used to patch old cloth, what he meant was the new was incompatible with the old. Jesus was the new cloth. And, when Jesus talked about the wineskins, what he meant was, the new truth in Jesus could not be poured into an old religious system. Jesus was the truth, and he brought in a new way.

Not only did Jesus bring in a new way of relating to God—

Second, JESUS’ ILLUSTRATION MEANT HE WAS THE ONLY WAY.

Jesus’ illustrations of patching up an old garment with new material and of pouring new wine into old wineskins is clear teaching on a false notion— *We all worship the same God.*

ILLUSTRATION: Last week someone handed me an article about how we all worship the same God. The article talked about the danger of saying we worship different gods.

Well, guess what? The author of the article is totally wrong. We do not all worship the same God. If you've been one to say we all worship the same God, please find it in scripture and let me know where it says all people worship the same God. Guess what? It's not there.

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION: During Sunday nights I've been preaching through First Samuel. It's clear there is a distinction between the God of the Israelites and the God of the Philistines. One time, the Philistines stole the Ark of the Covenant, the place where God's Spirit dwelled and put it in their temple next to their god, a statue named Dagon. The next morning, they discovered Dagon had fallen on his face in front of the Ark of the Covenant, so they put him back in his place. The next morning, when they went to the temple, not only did they find Dagon had fallen on the ground again in front of the Ark of the Covenant, but this time, his head and hands were broken off. If the Israelites and Philistines prayed to the same God, then why did this happen?

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION: Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. You know the story. Elijah laughed while these false prophets tried to call fire out of heaven. Then Elijah called fire out of heaven, but he only did so after he had the altar completely drenched with water.

If they all prayed to the same God, why did God only reply to Elijah?

APPLICATION: Now in America, we are supposed to have the freedom of worship. For the most part, we have it. People have found safety in America worshipping however they want or not worshipping at all. The historical definition of tolerance is to respect differences without discrimination, but the newer definition of tolerance is to discriminate because of differences. In other words, for me to say, "*I do not worship the same God as people of other religions*" is, to many, a horrible, intolerant statement.

When this country was founded, it was founded with the idea of religious freedom. This was a completely new concept. People who came here did not want to be under the oppression of the old country where they were required to be members of one Church. This new idea of religious freedom was liberating for everyone. There was no pressure to say we are all worshipping the same God. The idea was to worship God according to the dictates of one's own conscience, in one's own

community with like-minded believers who were free from societal pressures to conform into one-world religion.

Fast forward to the political correctness of our day, and I'd say the majority of Americans have bought into the false idea we all worship the same God.

"Oh but Brother Paul, that sounds so unkind, it sounds so unfair, it sounds so unpeaceful." Well, I am not here to please man, but God.

Zechariah Chapter 7 tells us about people who did not want to hear the truth, so they turned their backs and covered their ears.

In Acts 7, Stephen preached the truth, and people covered their ears and yelled.

And listen to what 2 Timothy 4:3 says—

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 4:3 ³*"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear."*

People, we are living in the very days Timothy talks about.

CONCLUSION: Listen to me—here's a final word to you. Salvation is not a patching up of a person's life. It is not a piecemeal of things coming together to make a person new.

Salvation comes through repentance and trusting Jesus for a new life altogether. Salvation is not pouring new truth into a brittle soul. It's the making of a new soul. Salvation is not entering into a one-world religion. Salvation is trusting Jesus Christ and him alone.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

Find me at www.thbc.com Click on sermons or YouTube channel: Pastor Paul Gunn
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Sincerely, Paul Gunn
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