

Out with the Old, In with the New

Matthew 9.14-17

John the Baptist and Jesus called for people to repent and get ready for the coming kingdom. Jesus was the Messiah, but He didn't match their expectations. They wanted someone who would observe traditions and fulfill their national ambitions. Jesus had a bigger plan.

Context, Context, Context

- Jesus called His followers to be 'salt and light' in their world.
- He told them to 'build on the rock' by acting on His teachings.
- He then performed many miracles to show who He was (Mt. 8)
- But people were looking for someone who 'fit in,' and He didn't!

Revealing the Kingdom Jesus Brings (9.1-15)

- Jesus not only heals sickness, He forgives sin! (1-8)
- Jesus didn't come to call the 'righteous,' but sinners (9-13).
- To save sinners, 'the bridegroom' will have to go away (14-15).

Two Parables, One Message: New and Old Don't Mix (9.16-17)

- Jesus did not come to reform an old religious system.
- Jesus' new way was to offer Himself to save sinners.

Some 'Fitting' Applications for Today

- Don't fudge the gospel: Jesus is the One who forgives sin.
- Don't confuse tradition or religion with new life in Christ.
- In a lost and dying world, live in the hope of our coming King.



1. Starting in Matthew 3, the kingdom of heaven is everywhere: John the Baptist proclaims that it is near. After John was arrested, Jesus proclaimed the same message. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus called His followers to live the 'kingdom life,' to experience *now* the kind of spiritual life that will one day distinguish all those who 'enter the kingdom of heaven.' But the key to all this talk about the kingdom was this: *The King was here! Jesus was the Messiah! We needed to recognize Him, believe in Him, and follow Him!* How does Jesus go about revealing Himself, in unmistakable ways, in Matthew 8? Look at each of the events, and observe Jesus words. What is the narrative fairly *shouting* about who Jesus is?
2. In Matthew 9.1-8, Jesus makes the issue of who He is, and what He is all about doing, unavoidable. How does He do this? Scribes were scholars in Old Testament Law, and their main object was to teach the Law to the Jews, and to the youth in particular. In other words, they were telling people how to live their lives. How does what Jesus says confront them? How would they feel about Him?
3. What is Jesus telling about His kingdom in Matthew 9.9-13? The tax collectors were the scum of the earth to the Pharisees, the self-righteous elite of the religious class. How does Jesus' declaration confront their pride? What do you think Jesus wants us to learn for ourselves today?
4. In verses 14-15, there is a contrast between the disciples of John and the Pharisees, and the disciples of Jesus: The former fasted to show their self-discipline and religious piety. Jesus' disciples did not. Was Jesus against fasting (see Mt. 6.16-18)? What was Jesus exhibiting about Himself? In the Old Testament, the 'bridegroom' was God (see Hos. 2.18, 21; Isa. 55.5-6; 62.5; Jer. 2.2). Can you see how Jesus was confronting the religious leaders?
5. In this context, the two parables of the patch and the wineskins (16-17) are making a point: The old and the new are incompatible. What is the old? What is the new?