

**The Parables of Jesus #3**  
**The Parables of the Patches and the Wineskins**  
**(Mk. 2:21-22)**  
**Bill Denton**

**Introduction**

**A. Example of worn-out knees on blue jeans**

1. When I was a kid, all we ever wore were blue jeans
2. They took a beating, playing ball, shooting marbles, etc
3. It was quite common for the knees to wear out before the rest of the pants, so our mothers often tried to patch the knees
4. You could buy a package of brand new, iron-on blue jean patches to cover the holes in the knees
5. But there were problems: one they always looked terrible, and two, they never worked for long because they always came off

**B. It should not surprise us that new things and old things often don't go together very well**

1. Jesus used that same idea to illustrate an important truth about the kingdom
2. That truth is the subject of the two parables we will look at tonight

**I. THE SETTING OF THE PARABLES**

**A. The setting is the same as we looked at last week**

1. Matthew Levi had invited Jesus to attend a dinner party
2. Pharisees and John's disciples had criticized Jesus both for eating with tax collectors and sinners, and for not fasting like they did
3. We've already looked at the first parable he told about the bridegroom and having reason to celebrate rather than mourn

**B. Jesus continued with two closely related parables designed to reveal something important about God's kingdom**

1. Mark 2:21-22  
No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; or else the new piece pulls away from the old, and the tear is made worse. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins. (NKJ)
2. Both the new and old cloth and the new and old wineskins relate to the critics at this banquet

## II. JESUS SPEAKS OF GREAT CHANGE HAPPENING

### A. The Old Cloth = the Jewish system under the Law of Moses

1. Jesus did not intend to patch up the problems of the Law
2. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and to replace it with a new Law
3. Christianity is not just an addition to the Law of Moses, nor is it a part of it in any way --- it is new altogether

### B. Reason -- the old garment was worn out

1. Jer 31:31-34

Judah-

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, "Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. (NKJ)

2. Matt 5:17-18

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. (NKJ)

3. Gal 3:19

What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. (NKJ)

4. Heb 7:18-19

For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. (NKJ)

5. Heb 8:7

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. (NKJ)

**C. The criticism of the Pharisees and even John's disciples was unwarranted**

1. Jesus' purpose was not to leave them only with what they already had
2. Jesus would fulfill the Law of Moses and then replace it
3. Their criticism betrayed an ignorance of what Jesus was to accomplish
4. Therefore, their criticism didn't relate to him at all

**III. JESUS EMPHASIZED THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF THE NEW AND OLD**

**A. Consider the problem of putting new wine into old wineskins**

1. The old wineskins burst
2. The new wine is also lost
3. New wine and old wineskins are incompatible with one another
4. In the same way, Christianity is incompatible with the Law of Moses

**B. Gal 5:2-6**

Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. (NKJ)

**C. Contrast the Old with the New**

1. Old was based on the Law of Moses -- New based on Christ
2. Old required perfection in it's followers -- New requires faith in Christ's perfection
3. Old was earned through observing its tenents -- New is a free gift of God's grace received through man's faith
4. Old glorified the keeper of the Law -- New glorifies God and his Son
5. Old was impossible to attain -- New is freely available to all
6. Old produced frustration and bondage -- New produces assurance and freedom
7. Old could only point to something else -- New is the something else

**D. Christ came to provide some new things**

1. To make us a new creation -- 2 Cor 5:17
2. To unite us as one man in Christ -- Gal 3:28
3. To provide us with a New Jerusalem -- Heb 12:22
4. To give a new teaching -- Mk 1:27
5. To give us a new name -- Rev 2:17
6. To have us walk a new and living way -- Heb 10:20
7. To acquire newness of life -- Rom 6:4
8. To serve in newness of the Spirit -- Rom 7:6

**CONCLUSION**

**A. 2 Cor 3:6**

who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (NKJ)

**B. Don't get stuck on the old**

1. It had its place, but it's been done away with
2. Jesus brought something new and better

**C. It's worth rejoicing about**

**D. Invitation**