Mat #88

The Bridegroom celebrates with His future bride

MY MOM messages may come little late next week…and NEW COMPUTER

Mat 9:12 But when Jesus heard *this,* He said, “*It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.

Mat 9:13 “But go and learn what this means: ‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

We noted last lesson that TLJC used some divine sarcasm on the Pharisees who decided to look into a house party that Jesus was the guest of honor at.

We looked into the rituals of what the legalistic crowd considered spirituality and that the Pharisee’s were fasting at this point.

They began to judge our Lord and TLJC told them to go study their scriptures and pointed out the prophet Hosea in verse 13.

Mat 9:14 Then the disciples of John (the Baptist) came to Him, asking, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?”

/Mat 9:15 And Jesus said to them, “**The attendants of the bridegroom** cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But **the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away** from them, and then they will fast.\

Mat 9:16 “But no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear results.

Mat 9:17 “Nor do *people* put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.”

There are a lot of principles within just these three scriptures between verses 15, 16 and 17 and it will take some time to get through it.

Perhaps even two lessons.

I can tell you right now these 3 scriptures point directly to the doctrine of dispensations more so than many teachers realize and most will gloss right over it but we will not Royal Family!

TLJC is said to be our future Husband.

/Only in the Church Age do we see a reference to Christ as the Groom or future Husband (Eph 5:22-32,Rev 19:7). There is a love that God has for His children (Bels) that is similar to a parent’s love, or even that we should love Him with intimacy *like a bride* in O.T. but never a definitive statement that Christ is the husband. (Only in CA).\

I think in one scripture in the book of Jeremiah it proclaims that the Jews will love God *like the love* that a bride has for a husband.

But the definitive statement that TLJC is a husband and the church is the bride is found only in CA mystery doctrine principles.

The reference to the CA dispensation is important to note.

It’s also important to note that an ancient wedding in the Jewish culture lasted several days maybe even a week so there is an elongated celebration you need to understand in verse 15.

/Mat 9:15- *the attendants of the bridegroom* were born again Bels who were enjoying the company of the Lord. Jesus wanted there to be joy and love between His followers and Himself as much as he desired to teach them and push them toward maturity.\

This was like Jesus telling the legalistic crowd…hey… let me enjoy my people because there will be enough suffering and problems at the end of my 3 year ministry. I’ll ascend back to heaven after the cross so enjoy my human company right now!

Sadly many of the followers of John the Baptist were still attached to the Scribes and Pharisees and this becomes a form of arrogance when you attach yourself to legalistic people and look down your nose on fellow Bels who are living the spiritual life removed from rituals and human works. REPEAT!

PARTY POOPERS!!!

Now we need to look at the context of what is being said by our Lord in verses 16 & 17.
We noted exactly what has been going on and now we see TLJC respond to a call to follow an OT ritual such as fasting and in His statement He is pointing out to them once again that the OLD laws and rituals are about to be put away.

Something new is upon them in this historical point.

/Mat 9:16 “But **no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment**; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and **a worse tear results**.\

The new cloth, the patch which is not shrunk is legalism, and because the topic in view is fasting, we must understand that TLJC is speaking about this first and foremost.

/If you try to put fasting as a symbol for the Christian way of life, you tear it up with legalism. Your effort and works count for nothing in fact they set the Bel backward toward apostasy because they think some form of human works puts them in closer contact with God.\

Paul said the same thing in Galatians:

“A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”

Fasting with the right motivation done in a spiritual sense as I had mentioned before could consist of removing all the distractions from your life and just focusing on the word of God for a few days. That has much greater value than putting on a show for others.

/Different forms of self-denial (asceticism) have no power to propel a Bel closer to God. The Unbel can fast and deny themselves many of life’s pleasures. They can be moral & pure by human standards, yet they can never be spiritual (godly).\ REPEAT

TLJC is pointing something beyond just the fasting issue that He is confronted with because He goes deeper into a secondary principle with a similar message but much more descriptive concerning the new CA dispensation that is just a few years away.

These two scriptures in Matthew chapter nine…verses 16 &17 are very difficult to explain if you do understand dispensations.

/Mat 9:17 “**Nor do *people* put new wine into old wineskins**; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out and the wineskins are ruined; **but they put new wine into fresh wineskins**, and both are **preserved.**”\

The ancient wines skins were like a leather product usually made from goat skins. The more it was used the more cracks would form in it and eventually it would reach a point when new wine was poured into it that it would burst.

/Wine skin was a reference to the human condition. There is a new nature or position we can walk in but it will not contain the rituals and laws of the O.T. which was nothing more than legalism at this historic point. The legalistic nature and rituals of old can only damage the new nature, it can’t sustain it!\

The two natures are incompatible the OSN which has human good within it, is not compatible with the new nature fueled by the power of the HS.

In reviewing verse 15 the words

/Mat 9:15 - *“then shall they fast”* is a prophetical reference. It is a future tense referring to the communion table. The type of fast that we have at the communion table is a legitimate fast; it is removing all other obstacles (mental & physical) then remembering the Lord Jesus Christ.\

When the Lord… the bridegroom….is taken, is a reference to His death and burial, *“then shall they fast.”* The disciples then would enter into this communion concept.

This means time used for Bible study and prayer which would ordinarily be used for something else. It anticipates the coming Church Age.

Turn to Romans chapter 14 with me.

TLJC was celebrating with some new Bels and the legalistic crowd wanted to make an issue out of a ritual instead of celebrating the fact that these sinners are now saved and going into heaven!

Why not party….even the elect angels party when they see a sinner saved!

/Luk 15:10 In the same way, I tell you, **there is joy** in the presence of the angels of God **over one sinner** who repents.”\

Legalism wouldn’t allow the Pharisees and those Bels who had listened to John the Baptist but still followed the Scribes and Pharisees rejoice.

Legalism was the blockade to having their eyes opened and joy in their heart that Matthew and his friends were now hearing truth.

Anyone who comes to believe in TLJC as God and savior is a person we should celebrate with!

/Psa 5:11 But let **all who take refuge in You be glad**, let them ever **sing for joy**; And may You shelter them, that those who love Your name may exult in You. 12 For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You **surround him with favor** as with a shield.\

Look at Romans chapter 14 verse 14 and let’s see what the Apostle Paul is teaching about the do’s and don’ts of rituals and what they truly stand for.

/Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus **that nothing is unclean in itself**; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.\

Paul is in a deep spiritual lesson concerning what some Bels call lifestyle practices and others may say it isn’t spiritual. This was a lesson dealing with weak Bels and strong Bels.

What some Bel may think is sin for them concerning drinking a few glasses of alcohol may not be for another Bel.

It is the same for our dietary preferences.

Rom 14:15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

In other words you stronger Bels if you are dining with a new Bel or weaker Bel and they take issue with certain dining habits you have, respect that weaker Bel.

Rom 14:16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

/Rom 14:17 for **the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking**, but **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**.\

This includes a Bel who likes to fast and they believe it helps them focus on prayer…don’t make an issue out of it, don’t become a stumbling block for other Bels because of your attitude or lifestyle.

Rom 14:18 For he who in this *way* serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Rom 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Rom 14:20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

There are some foods and drinks and personal habits we each have that cause us to sin and if that is the case then we need to be aware of that certainly if we are with a weaker Bel and we know what we are doing causes them anxiety.

You don’t go out to a night club with a recovering alcoholic and order him a soda while you continue to drink alcohol in front of him all night.

Rom 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or *to do anything* by which your brother stumbles.

/Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, **have as your own conviction before God**. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.\

This is what I often teach that we must come to our own convictions in certain areas.

Your relationship with God is very unique and very personal.

But as a mature Bel we must not cause those Bels around us to stumble.

There are many obvious sins in the area of morality but there are a few gray areas in certain practices such as food and drinks.

What may cause one person to become gluttonous or drunk may not be the same for another person.

/Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and **whatever is not from faith is sin.\**