

# New Wine And Old Whiners

**Big Idea:** Those who tend to long for the good old days, the old wine, will lack the freshness and flexibility needed to accommodate what God is doing now. The new wine is available to those with new wineskin attitudes, who persist in seeking after Jesus, believe He forgives and restores, and praise Him when He does.

Jesus did not fit the expectations of the religious leaders of his day. He was constantly criticized for not adhering to their interpretation of the law: claiming to be God (Luke 4:16-30), forgiving sins (5:21), being friends with sinners (30), eating and drinking with His disciples instead of fasting (33), and healing the sick on the Sabbath (6:6-11).

*He told them this parable: “No one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, ‘The old is better.’”* Luke 5:36-39

While Jesus never changes, His church is in a constant state of change, internally and externally. Internally we are being transformed, from glory to glory, to become more like Him (2 Corinthians 3:18). If we stop learning and growing, and become hardened at any point in the process, we could miss out on this incredible metamorphosis.

External change is also necessary. While the Great Commission remains constant, the methodology adapts to changing generations and cultures. Evangelism strategies, children’s and youth ministries, church planting, church polity, and yes, even music style are affected. Jesus, the Great I Am, while unchanging in His nature, is always current. The church who represents Him should be too!

Among the complaints of the “old whiners” Jesus encountered in Luke 5 we can also see the better responses of those who were ready to change and receive His new wine of forgiveness and healing. Look at what we can learn about “new wineskin” attitudes from the paralytic and his friends:

## 1. Persistence

*And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.* Luke 5:18,19

## 2. Faith

*And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you”.... “But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” - he said to the man who was paralyzed - “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.”* Luke 5:20,24

## 3. Praise

*And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”* Luke 5:25,26

The so-called “religious” leaders made no effort to receive the new wine Jesus was offering. As far as they were concerned, the old wine was better – after all, it was what they were used to! But because of their rigidity, they missed out on a transformed life. We could miss out too if we aren’t prepared for the way Jesus will pour Himself out to this generation. Keep yourself fresh and flexible by persistently following after Jesus, believing he forgives and heals, and living a life of praise and gratitude for all He has done!