

New Wine into New Wineskin

And He was also giving them an illustration: No one having torn a patch from a garment new and fresh in quality and use, puts it upon an old worn-out garment. Otherwise, he will both tear the new clothing, and the patch from the new garment will not match the old, worn-out one. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. And no one, having drunk old *wine*, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.' Luke 5:36-39 (NLT)

It is often difficult, if not impossible, to put new things into old ways. When it comes to matters of His Kingdom, Jesus used two examples to describe the incompatibility of the old way and the new way.

The old garment and the new piece of garment have nothing in common. To patch the old with a new piece of garment will not do much good. The new will not help the old because the rest of the clothing still has the quality of the old and crumbled thread. More importantly, the old will tear the new apart.

Winemaking has always been a major industry in Syria-Palestine. They understand the mechanics of growing and keeping their winemaking business. They know that every drop of a fine wine brings profit and so, they had to preserve, store, and transport the wine with the best container possible.

When a new wine is placed into a new wineskin, the wineskin expands/stretch to its limits as a reaction to the fermentation process that is taking place in the wine.

Mark 2:22 and Mat. 9:17 says the wisest thing to do is to put the "new wine into new wineskins."

The gospel of Jesus is the new wine. It must be placed into new wineskins. This year, let us put the gospel of Christ into new wineskins. Remove it from our container of legalism and put it into a container of love and grace.

Luke 6:27-36: (v27) But to you who are listening, I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, (28) bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (29) If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. (30) Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. (31) Do to others as you would have them do to you. (32) If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. (33) And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. (34) And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. (35) But love your enemies, do good to them and lend to them without expecting anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High because he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. (36) Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

This year, let us let stop drinking the "old wine." Let us teach ourselves to desire the new. It is not going to be automatic.

(v39) And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'

Our experiences in life do not automatically teach us to be better in a particular area of life. But evaluated experience do.

Evaluate your life experiences in 2019 and make the necessary change for a better 2020.