

Remnant Life Church
September 25, 2016
The Parables of Jesus:
New Patches and New Wineskins – Pt 1
Mark 2:21-22

Authorship:

- Mark – not one of the 12 – Peter likely his primary source of information
 - Referenced 10 times in the NT by the name John Mark
 - Acts 12:12, 25; Acts 13:5, 13; Acts 15:37, 39; Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11; Philemon 1:24; 1 Peter 5:13
 - A younger man at the time probably in his early to mid-30's
 - The first of the Gospels written around the late early to mid 50's – 20 to 25 years after Jesus left
 - His mother's (named Mary) house was used as a meeting place for the disciples and early church where Mark would have heard about Jesus and become a follower (Acts 12:12)
 - So much so that he traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch (the first place the followers of Jesus were called "Christians" – Acts 11:26) to meet up with Paul and Barnabas
 - When they left on the first of Paul's 3 missionary journeys Mark went with them as a helper (Acts 13:5)
 - We read that Mark left them before the journey was completed (Acts 13:13) and Paul saw this as deserting the task that God had given them to do
 - Paul was so upset that for the next trip he absolutely refused to allow Mark to accompany them (Acts 15:38)
 - This caused a rift between Paul and Barnabas, who defended Mark, and they ended up going their separate ways (Acts 15:39)
 - Paul took Silas on his next trip and Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus
 - But the story does not end here
 - Barnabas had insisted that Mark needed another chance which Paul was unwilling to do and they spent time away from each other (Barnabas and Mark were cousins – Col. 4:10)
 - But Paul and Barnabas did not stay separated for long
 - + Paul remembers that Barnabas was the first of Jesus' close followers to embrace him and endorse him to the disciples after his conversion (Acts 9:26-27)
 - Mark is given that second chance and is not held to his time of past weakness
- It is no wonder then that Mark would record the teaching of Jesus on what it means to be changed and the impact of the new upon the old
- **READ – Mark 2:21-23**
- Jesus had every method available to Him to get His message to the people
 - He could have lectured for several hours about how people should treat one another
 - Instead He told the story of the Good Samaritan
 - He could have given a great flowing discourse on what heaven was like
 - Instead he talked about people eating at a banquet

- He could have spoken in deep theological terms about the new way of life He was teaching and the change that should take place in people's lives
 - Instead he talked about putting a patch on a garment and an everyday container of wine
- This teaching is coming on the heels of Jesus being questioned about fasting and why His disciples did not fast in the same way John the Baptist's disciples and the Pharisees did
 - The Pharisees were the gold standard of piety and righteousness to the people of that day
 - But Jesus knew better because He saw the heart
 - Fasting was demonstrated in the OT as a very special time between the individual and God
 - The Pharisees had turned it into a festival of pride
 - When they fasted they whitened their faces, put ashes on their forehead, wore dirty and disheveled garments, refused to wash, and looked as forlorned and miserable as possible
 - This was done not as a sacrifice to God in private but as a public display to garner attention and admiration for their devotion and piety before God
 - *(Matt 6:16-18) When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*
 - Jesus was saying, once again, it is not what happens on the outside that is most important it is the condition of the heart
- The Patch
 1. People living in NT times did not have Kohl's, Walmart, JC Penney, or Boscov's
 - When an article of clothing tore it was not replaced it was repaired
 - The material they would use would most likely be something that had been recently woven which meant it would not have gotten wet and shrunk
 - + To sew a piece of new fabric on an older article of clothing meant that it would shrink at some point and pull away and make the hole bigger
 2. Jesus' message is clear – He came to introduce the new not to patch up the old
 - By the questions they asked the Pharisees were impressed by Jesus' teaching
 - And they would have been willing to assimilate portions of His teaching into their own but Jesus was showing the foolishness of that
 - The Mosaic Economy was getting old, decaying, and beginning to disappear (**Heb. 8:13**)
 - Jesus was introducing and establishing a New Covenant through His blood shed for us (**Luke 22:20**)
 - The law then would be written on the hearts of those who believed not on stone tablets (**2 Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 10:15-18**)
 - It would then be the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that would enable God's people to fulfill the righteousness of the law (**Rom. 8:1-4**)

- Relevant for today – Jesus, among other things, is refuting the concept of a common world religion blending various philosophies so that everyone by any means can come to God
 - *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)*
3. The Church of the 21st century must be on guard, perhaps more than any other time in history, to the infiltration of world-religion philosophies
- There are teachings being brought into mainline Protestant churches that are cloaking teachings that is not from the Bible
 - Yoga – already addressed this in the past
 - + Yoga was founded in and remains in Hinduism
 - + The purpose of the positions and the breathing was to allow the person to empty themselves of themselves and, if done properly, they can then be accepted by one of the estimated 330 million gods the Hindus pray to
 - + These gods are demonic
 - + Simply claiming to separate the action from the intention does not make it so
 - + Hindu teacher was quoted as saying that the western claim of removing the spiritual aspects of Yoga are not possible. Yoga was founded on the spiritual principles of Hinduism. He said it would be like taking communion and claiming that it had nothing to do with Jesus Christ. Communion is solely about Jesus! Just as Yoga is about the false gods of Hindu. They cannot be separated!
 - Theophostic Prayer Ministry is based on a one man's (Ed Smith in the 1990's) belief in regressive psychotherapy techniques mashed together with very selective and mutilated Bible interpretation
 - + One of the primary faults of this teaching is that it minimizes the power of the shed blood of Jesus and His grace and instead relies on the individual's ability to deal and connect with the past
 - Reiki Healing – originated in 1922 by a Japanese Buddhist who developed and founded its principles on Buddhism and Shintoism
 - + Reiki has spread because an early disciple of its founder claimed that he was inspired by Jesus' healings but that was found to be a false claim only presented to make it more acceptable to the Christian church in the West
 - Kundalini – translated literally as "coiled one" – Hindu origin
 - + False Holy Spirit
 - + Charismatic manifestations
 - + Robs or masks spiritual discernment

It is Jesus and nothing else!

In the case of both the garment and the wineskin something is destroyed. God does not just *mend* our hearts; he does not blend our hearts to other things; he gives us brand new ones. *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezek. 36:26).*