

# *“Believable CHANGE!”*

**Luke 5:33-39**

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- Luke 5:33-39-- *“After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he left all, rose up, and followed Him. Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” Then they said to Him, “Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but Yours eat and drink?” And He said to them, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days.” Then He spoke a parable to them: “No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old. 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.’ ”*
- *“Hard to teach an old dog new tricks”*
- **Change is a Process.** Knowledge, Persuasion, Decision, Implementation, Confirmation
- **E.M. Rogers, “Diffusion of Information” and Change**
  - 1) Innovators—2.5%
  - 2) Early Adopters—13.5%
  - 3) Early Majority—33%
  - 4) Late Adopters—33%
  - 5) Laggards—18%
- **Jesus as a “Change Agent”.**
- Many of his original disciples were “early adopters”. But the vast majority of the people were like the listeners to the preacher to the Hebrews-- checking out Christ’s claims and making a decision regarding him.
- **The Question on many people’s minds:** Why are you feasting while others are fasting?
  - Luke 5:33-- *“Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but Yours eat and drink?”*
  - Mark 2:18-- *“Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, “How is it that John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?”*
  - Matthew 9:14-- *“Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, ‘Why do we and the Pharisees fast often but Your disciples do not fast?’”*

## *“Believable CHANGE!”*

### **A. Change that Does Not Violate Scripture.**

1. **Only one fast is prescribed in the Old Testament, and that is on the Day of Atonement.**
  - Leviticus 16:29-31-- *“This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native or your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may*

*be clean from all your sins before the LORD. It is a Sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever."*

2. **All other fasts were voluntary, not mandatory.**
  - a. Individual fasts such as David's
    - 2 Samuel 2:16-- *"Pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground."*
  - b. National fasts such as in Zechariah 7:4 and 8:12
  - c. Pharisaical fasts— *"twice a week"*
    - Luke 18:12-- *"I fast twice a week, and give a tenth of all that I get!"*
3. **Jesus, therefore, is not disobeying Scripture but rather breaking tradition!**
  - a. **He personally fasted in the wilderness for 40 days.**
  - b. **He taught his disciples how to properly fast without show or fanfare.**
    - Matthew 6:16-28-- *"Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."*
  - c. **The early church fasted**
    - Acts 13:2-3-- *"As they ministered to the LORD and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away."*

## **B. Change that is Appropriate for the Times**

- Luke 5:34-- *"And He said to them, 'Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them?'"*
  1. **Jesus' question expects a negative reply.** *"Of course not! No one expects to fast at a wedding reception."*
  2. **Jesus equates His time here on earth as a nuptial feast.** The Messiah would be wedded to God's people as a bridegroom to the bride. And thus a time to celebrate.
  3. **John the Baptist recognized the presence of the bridegroom, and thus a time for celebration.**
    - John 3:29-- *"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled."*
  4. **But a time will come when it will be appropriate to fast!**
    - Luke 5:35-- *"But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days."*
    - Isaiah 53:8-- *"...cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people he was stricken"*
  5. **But the "fasting" will be temporary!**
    - John 16:16-- *"A little while, and you will not see Me; and again, a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to My Father."*
    - John 16:20-- *"Most assuredly I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy."*
  - a. **Grief will be turn to "joy" —Christ' presence with us**

- b. **Celebration of the Lord's table and the presence of Jesus.**
  - Matthew 18:20-- *"where two or three are gathered together in His name , there I am in the midst"*
  - Matthew 28:20-- *"surely I am with you always, even unto the end of the age."*
- c. **Celebration anticipated in the future in kingdom**
  - Revelation 19:7-9-- *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, 'Write: Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"*

### C. Change that Does Not Compromise

- Luke 5:36-38-- *"Then He spoke a parable to them: 'No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old. 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.'"*
  1. **One cannot combine the "old" and "new" without destroying both.**
  2. **The "old" and "new" will never match.**
  3. **The "new" must be placed in "new" containers.**
  4. The early church wrestled with the proper limits of influence of their Jewish heritage. They struggled with the relationship between law and grace! In their struggle, they learned that the focus is not on returning to the old covenant requirements but rather embracing the new covenant Jesus initiated. Jesus brought something brand NEW!
  5. **The old covenant and the new cannot be combined.** You either have to accept the one and reject the other. You can't "mix, match, and patch." And if you go with the New Contract, it will involve CHANGE.
    - 2 Corinthians 5:17-- *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*
- 4. **No matter what, some will resist change!**
  - Luke 5:39-- *"And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.' "*
    - a. Jesus is not saying that His new teaching is not as good as the old. But rather that people tend to hold on to their traditions rather than embrace the new gospel.
    - b. Many are satisfied with the status quo. They do not see themselves as "lost" in need of a savior.
    - c. With those who resist change it is important for us to patiently, gently teach and instruct.
      - 2 Timothy 2:24-25-- *"And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in the opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will."*
    - d. God has ways of gaining the attention of even the most hardened self-righteous sinner.