

New Wine

Introduction

One of the things that I speak about a lot is the way threads are woven through Scripture. How writers who lived in different eras, different cultures, and over a span of 1500 years....were used by God to deliver in their own way, the central message of God. Sometimes just a few words can open up a deeper meaning and point us to deeper revelation of God's message.

These threads are one of the things that led me to the conclusion that this book....the Bible...could not have been written by man. It is too wonderful for us.

We have been looking at the flashpoint moment that occurred when the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples and believers in Solomon's Portico on the Day of Pentecost.

The text here is easy to read, but it is so deep that you could spend years studying it. Every word....everything...matters.

Last week we looked at the symbolism of the paralyzed man healed by the Holy Spirit at conversion....who ran to the presence of God in Solomon's Portico.

I shared in last weeks' sermon that God was clearly doing something new. The temple represented the old covenant....the Jewish traditions...the Jewish Law...the sacrifices...God had been in the Holy Of Holies...in a sense contained by a curtain....God was with man.

Yet on this moment...God was doing something very new....God was no longer in the Holy of Holies...He was now in the hearts of new believers. He was now filling the temple with His presence....both for the Jew and the Gentile who believes. They...their bodies....would now be the home of God. Believers house the Holy Spirit and are temples of God.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (ESV) 16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

This man was set free by the Holy Spirit from his paralysis...both physical and more importantly spiritual.

As he ran, danced and leaped across the temple court...leading a parade of new believers...He represents all of us. Paralyzed people set free by the Holy Spirit.

The clear message in the Temple on the Days surrounding Pentecost that year was that God was doing something new. The old was complete...the new had come.

God spoke of this to the Prophet Isaiah hundreds of years before...

Isaiah 43:18–19 (ESV) 18 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Yes God was doing something new. Something so new....the old ways couldn't hold it....the old Jewish traditions...they could no longer represent it...this New Covenant was like nothing the world had seen before.

This covenant was new...but it wasn't a surprise...God had promised the Messiah.....The Spirit....and a New Covenant....Look at what the Prophet Jeremiah promised.

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (ESV) 31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

As this man ran from the Jewish area of the Temple....From the Law toward the grace and mercy of the forgiveness of Jesus....He was...along with all the others....ushering in this new covenant....God was writing on their hearts...and placing His Spirit there.

On this day of Pentecost...in the Temple of God...The Holy Spirit of God fell on believers...The Day Jeremiah looked forward to....was happening.

And yet God wasn't through yet. Everything about this moment shouted....the Old is gone the New has come. Look at what happens next.

The Holy Spirit Arrives

Acts 2:1–4 (ESV) 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Incredible...they were praising God in languages that they had not known, so that people could hear the message of Christ and believe...Why did they speak in tongues?

Come back next week and we will discuss it. Next week we will talk about what the tongues really represented...and how they have been misrepresented ever since.

But today, I want to focus on those who doubted. Those who mocked what the Holy Spirit was doing that day. Let's look at what they had to say....

Acts 2:11-13 (ESV) 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

They are acting drunk....is how we always seem to read it....and in doing so we miss the incredible truth that God is trying to reveal to us.

Sometimes God uses Mockers to speak the truth and they don't even know it. I think it is God's sense of Humor...they think they are so smart...mocking Him....and yet what they say is exactly what He is doing that they don't understand.

Isn't it odd....that they said...They are filled with NEW wine. Why not just wine? Why not just say that they are drunk? Soused? Blitzed? But no....clearly they say....New Wine.

Two words....New Wine....and remember when we learned how to study the Bible together I told you that every word in Scripture matters...it is place there by God for a reason. What is the big deal about New Wine?

Did you know...that from the beginning of Scripture....the term New Wine referred to the Holy Spirit of God?

Israel was the Vineyard....Jesus the Winedresser....and the new wine was the Holy Spirit....

When these men mocked what was happening and said these Men are full of New Wine....they were right....The men were full of the Holy Spirit....God was doing something New...They were mocking the very thing that God was declaring...and they had no idea.

New Wine is that which is pressed first....The first pressing brings the purest wine. New wine in the Old Testament is often associated with the Promised Land to come and the Harvest to Come.

Deuteronomy 11:13-14 (NKJV) 13 ‘And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, 14 then I will give *you* the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.

Amos 9:13-14 (NIV) 13 “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills, 14 and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. “They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

Deuteronomy 7:12-13 (NIV) 12 If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors. 13 He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land—your grain,

new wine and olive oil—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

So when this man....stood mocking the Presence of the Holy Spirit....He had no idea what He was really saying....these people were fulfilling the promise...New Wine....the Holy Spirit....the Promised Spirit was filling them up.....with Joy, Celebration, and Life. I loved that God used him to speak this incredible truth.

New Wine also had another meaning....a more tangible one....people who drank new wine....Got drunk quickly. That is what his mocker was likely trying to say.

The first press of the grapes...produced the wine that would be the most potent. When this man said they were full of new wine, it would be the same as they are full of Everclear today.

New Wine was special...it was reserved for great celebrations....particularly Weddings. In Jewish tradition wine represented joy and celebration. Wine was served to show respect and honor to one's guests. However, they rarely drank new wine undiluted. It was too powerful. So they had huge vats of water nearby to cut the wine so that people could enjoy the celebration longer without being drunk.

God was doing something new. The Old was being replaced. The Holy Spirit had come. God had come. And this moment changed everything for ever.

About three to four years earlier...Jesus and His family were invited to a wedding. The city was Cana and Jesus was a younger man who had some disciples but had not yet performed any miracles.

His entire family was there so this wedding is likely for someone who is related to Him. Someone in His family.

John 2:1-2 (ESV) 1 On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

But then something shameful happened....Their family had run out of wine. To us this would be like a wedding reception that ran out of food very early. Except that to run out of wine in Jewish culture was the ultimate humiliation. You actually took wine away from guests whom you did not want there.

John 2:2-5 (ESV) 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

The word Woman here does not carry in disrespect...it was an endearing term used commonly by people who were very close. Odd that Jesus said....My Hour has not yet come.

What hour? What does the wedding running out of wine have to do with Jesus' Hour? What is Jesus trying to show us? Jesus knew that in His future there would come a time...an hour....when He would reveal who He really is and in that hour the meaning

of wine would become more clear. Something He would reveal at another Passover in about 3 years.

Luke 22:14–20 (ESV) 14 And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

The New Wine....the wine that would usher in the New Covenant...was made available only through the blood of God's Lamb...Jesus the Messiah.

Jesus knew that bringing New Wine too soon was not ordained by the prophets. His time had not yet come to reveal New Wine. The covenant had not been paid for...His blood had not yet been poured out....It was not His time for New Wine.

So Jesus....foreshadowed what was to come.

John 2:6–7 (ESV) 6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

Every word matters. These jars were made of stone...that is unusual. Most water jars were made of clay. And there were six of them. Six is the number of falling short of God. Six is the number of being incomplete.

Stone jars held more pure water. Water used for purification. God is doing something new. Jesus is about to foreshadow it. The Jars of Purification were used in the Jewish rites. The Old. The number six means that they fall short of their purpose. This water...these cisterns....could never really bring purification to anyone.

So Jesus turns the old water into new wine. He foreshadows how the Holy Spirit...the New Wine...will be poured out one day...to replace the Jewish purification efforts that were never going to succeed.

John 2:8–11 (ESV) 8 And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

This wine was better than anything they had ever tasted. But notice that the Good wine...had been saved. You have kept the Good Wine until now. That is exactly what Jesus was foreshadowing. The true New Wine...the best wine....the Holy Spirit....would come...when His hour had come.

But there is a problem with New Wine.

New Wine ferments a lot. Over time it produces a great deal of gas....the wine expands and the container must expand to hold it. Only new wineskins...had the flexibility and expansion potential that could house new wine.

Jesus was foreshadowing day when His hour would come. When His blood would be poured out...and the Holy Spirit would fall on His people. They would be full of the New Wine God promised...the Holy Spirit.

So one day....Jesus had an incredible moment with John's Disciples.

Matthew 9:14 (ESV) 14 Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

Notice something here. These are not Pharisees...Not Sadducees...these were the Disciples of John the Baptist. They were asking Jesus...why they and the Pharisee fast...and Jesus' disciples don't.

Now it is interesting that two of John's Disciples would soon jump ship and follow Jesus and leave John.

John 1:35–39 (ESV) 35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

John 1:40–41 (ESV) 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ).

The other is up for debate. Most likely it was Phillip. Philip was from Bethesda, just as Peter and Andrew were.

But back to our story. Why do your disciples not fast? Without going too far off tangent, they didn't need to fast because they didn't lack anything. They had Jesus with them. John's disciples did not. Fasting was a way of demonstrating great need for God's hand to move. For the moment Jesus' disciples were good.

But Jesus says something incredibly interesting.

Matthew 9:15 (ESV) 15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

The day will come when the Bridegroom is taken away....Jesus uses His words very carefully. The Bridegroom will not go away...He will be taken away. When that day

comes...they will feel the absence of God...and their desperation for God...their personal grief...their realization of need....will lead them to fast.

The bridegroom will be taken away....taken away...and then God is going to do something new. They are asking about fasting....Jesus is looking ahead to the Hour to come...the Day to Come...the real wedding to come...when the New Wine...the Holy Spirit would come.

It seems random...Like Jesus just changes the topic....but this is the Topic. The would one day fast when He is taken away...and one day...New Wine would come....Some it is only natural that Jesus begins to teach about new wine.

Matthew 9:17 (ESV) 17 Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

New Wine ferments...old wineskins can't contain it. If they try to hold it they will be destroyed. Only new wine in a new wineskin can lead to the preservation of both.

Now remember that Jesus is really speaking about the Holy Spirit.

Jesus came to introduce something new, not to patch up something old. This is what salvation is all about. In doing this, Jesus doesn't destroy the old (the law), but He fulfills it, just as an acorn is fulfilled when it grows into an oak tree. There is a sense in which the acorn is gone, but its purpose is fulfilled in greatness.

Jesus explained that He did not come to repair or reform the old institutions of Judaism, but to institute a new covenant altogether. The new covenant doesn't just improve the old; it replaces it and goes beyond it.

Jesus' reference to the wineskins was His announcement that the present institutions of Judaism could not and would not contain His new wine. He would form a new institution—the church—that would bring Jew and Gentile together into a completely new body.

Jesus reminds us that what is old and stagnant often cannot be renewed or reformed. God will often look for new vessels to contain His new work.

Only a new person, spiritually born because of their faith in Christ could hold the New Wine...the Holy Spirit.

In the example, the new wine is expansive. The fermentation process produces a great deal of pressure. An old and brittle wineskin will not be able to withstand the increasing stress, and it will burst.

The wineskin is a type of vessel. Throughout Scripture, vessels are symbols for people. For Christians, there is an "old man" and a "new man." The old man represents the life we had before conversion, and the new man, the new vessel, is the life that comes because of conversion. But if we take the expansive and dynamic new wine, and we attempt to put that into the old life, we can be sure that we will have a disaster on our hands.

Our old lives, our old ways, are entirely incompatible with the new wine. The new wine requires change, expansion, and steady improvement, while in the old life, there was no real desire or ability to change. Remember, the new wine is tied to the blood of Passover, the New Covenant, the receipt of God's Spirit, and the spiritual result that will be produced by those powerful factors. Trying to cram all that into a person who is unwilling to change will invariably result in his coming apart at the seams. The precious new wine is spilled on the ground and sadly wasted.

Ephesians 5:15-18 (ESV) 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

The Old Wine...our old life...our sinful life...Our Old container...our physical body...our sinful nature....both must be replaced. Don't get drunk with Wine....be filled with the Spirit.

Beginning in Genesis....when Isaac blessed Jacob...New Wine....was promised.

Genesis 27:27-28 (NIV) 27 So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said, "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed. 28 May God give you heaven's dew and earth's richness— an abundance of grain and new wine.

The prophets spoke of it...Jesus taught about it...His first miracle pointed to it....and then at Pentecost New Wine came....to newly reborn spiritual vessels....and the world would never be the same again.

Acts 2:11-13 (ESV) 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

Yes...Yes they are....to the glory of God...

But what about us?

When the Mockers looked at those who were receiving the Holy Spirit, they could tell that something had happened to them. They were different. They had changed. They thought they were drunk but at least they recognized something had happened.

I am concerned that mockers today look at Spirit filled believers and see nothing different or unique about them. You can have a great looking church without the Spirit of God.

You can be a great looking Christian without the Spirit of God.

It is the presence of the Holy Spirit....Alive and Active...in the life of believers that advances the Gospel of Jesus.

Most people who are filling churches today are people trying to fill their old lives with the New Wine of the Spirit. They have not repented or surrendered to the Spirit....they have just tried to add Him to their old wineskins. They don't want to die to their old ways....they just want to spiritualize them.

We become new Spiritual Beings when we Repent and Believe. New Wine must go into New Wineskins. God's Spirit can only exist in New Spiritual people who have been born again.

We as Spiritual beings have to hate our old selves like it is a cancer that we must destroy....so that we can truly live.

The symbolism of the flashpoint at Pentecost....is that God is doing something NEW. All of man's feeble efforts to reach God are replaced with God's promise to reach man. The old Jewish laws, rituals and customs could not contain it. Your old sinful life could not contain it.

What God is bringing is truly new. He ordained it, He sent the Messiah, He made a New Covenant, He created new spiritual beings, and He sent new wine.... the Holy Spirit. We bring nothing of value to this transformation. It is all God.

All He requires of us...is to believe and surrender..

May God fill all of us with new wine. Let's Pray