

August 18, 2019

Understanding God's Time

Things to Ponder This Week

Introduction

(Luke 5:17-32)

The religious leaders had difficulty accepting Jesus was the promised Christ, God's Son and anointed King, sent to save us and lead us in righteousness. Based on their wrongful understanding/view of God and their own religious perspectives, they criticized Jesus for being unrighteous as seen in light of how His disciples acted.

Feasting or Fasting

(Luke 5:33-35; John 3:27-29)

Jesus explained that His coming and His current work in their midst was to be enjoyed and celebrated by all. The question was whether people saw and understood that He was the Christ. Because the religious leaders did not understand nor accept Jesus as being the Christ, they missed the significance of the moment.

New or Old

(Luke 5:36-39)

Here are some things to note from what Jesus was saying:

- New and old do not mix well together
- New wine needs fresh wineskins
- Leaving the old behind and going to the new is not easy

Time to embrace new life in Christ

(John 1:1-5,10-13)

In Jesus is life, and only through Him can we be brought into a right relationship with God, and become children of God.

Based on Luke 5:33-35, what specifically was the complaint that the Pharisees brought against Jesus? What did Jesus not say about fasting? Was He against fasting? What did Jesus give as a reason for His disciples not fasting? Why should you fast or not fast?

Based on Luke 5:36-38, what is the main point that Jesus is making regarding conflicting views and practices? With your worldview and beliefs and daily practices, are there any conflicts between your old way of life and your new life in Christ? Prayerfully consider what it means to live freely and peacefully in Christ.

Based on Luke 5:39, what can be said about the saying, "It is hard to teach an old dog new tricks"? Why do you think it is hard for people to accept new ideas and new ways? Prayerfully consider your own struggles with aligning yourself completely with Christ. (His way was "new" for the Pharisees based on their practices, but was "old" as creation itself and eternity past. More importantly, it is God's way.)

Next Sunday, we will look together at Jesus being "The Lord of the Sabbath." Prayerfully read Luke 6:1-11, and consider what Jesus is saying about the right way to enjoy the Sabbath day. What is the significance of the Sabbath for us today?