



Home Group study: week beginning 5th February 2023

TITLE: Parables – stories to live by: New Wine & New Wineskins

PASSAGE: Mark 2:18-22

Introduction:

Malcolm shared some humorous examples of phrases that would have meant something different in his grandparent's generation with the rapid rise of technological advancement.

E.g. Hard drive – today our laptops contain these but...his grandparents would have considered a "Hard drive" to be a tough journey.

Have you experienced any phrases or words that have multiplied or evolved their meaning in this generation from when you were younger?

Read: Mark 2:18-22

What do you think Jesus is referring to in his two examples of cloth and wineskins?

What ACTUALLY happens if you poured new wine into an old wineskin? What is the result?

What would you describe as the flavours of this New Wine that Jesus is referring to?

Are you someone who finds change easy or difficult? What makes the process of change better or worse for you?

Malcolm challenged us with several points that reflect an attitude of 'Old Wineskins today' – how can we best protect ourselves from these attitudes?

- We can become uncharismatic not seeking the Holy Spirit and expecting the work of the Holy Spirit when we meet and in our lives.
- We start to defend and maintain what is the old ways or traditions.
- We resist and despise anything new.
- We seek to maintain control of areas we have responsibilities.

(Side note for leaders – if people express challenging areas particularly about Jubilee don't feel the need to justify or defend but please share back to the Eldership team)

Are there areas in church life (not necessarily our Jubilee) today that you feel have become rigid and difficult?

What's the gospel hope (the good news from Jesus) that you can see in this story?

What encouragement can you take from this parable regarding your own spiritual growth?

Do you think God is wanting to do a new thing in your life? Are you open to God's newness in your life?

Pray:

- Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on each of us. (Perhaps break into 2s & 3s)
- Pray for freedom from areas of rigidity in our lives that God might be challenging us in.
- Let's keep praying for opportunities to share and pray for family and friends who are particularly on your heart.
- Pray that our church would see more and more people in the community want to 'come & see'.