

## Tradition, Tradition!

Matthew 9:14-17

### Introduction:

- The context of the question, “Why do we fast but Your disciples don’t.”
  1. Religious – Jews had well-established traditions that were viewed as 1\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Time frame
    - a. John the Baptist was in \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. The questioning was on the same day as the f\_\_\_\_\_ at Matthew’s house (Lk 5:30-39)
    - c. On a day that Jews traditionally fasted, the Day of A\_\_\_\_\_
- The illustrations that answer the question
  1. W\_\_\_\_\_ party
  2. W\_\_\_\_\_ - out clothing
  3. W\_\_\_\_\_

### Discard tradition when it becomes i\_\_\_\_\_

- The illustration
  1. Because the groomsmen are celebrating with the groom in anticipation of his marriage, they cannot m\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. When the groom is \_\_\_\_\_ away from them, then they will f\_\_\_\_\_ (they won’t feel like eating).
- The application to Jesus and His disciples
  1. J\_\_\_\_\_ is the groom; His followers are the groomsmen – they are f\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. One day Jesus will be taken away from them (reference to His \_\_\_\_\_) and then they will f\_\_\_\_\_ (mourn, and not feel like eating).
- The clear picture
  1. Why were most Jews fasting on this day?
    - a. It was the Day of Atonement where one sacrifice for the sins of all the people was made by the High Priest which covered sins for entire previous y\_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. Lev 23:27 commands observing the Day of Atonement by h\_\_\_\_\_ their souls (or afflicting themselves)
      - 1) This was i\_\_\_\_\_ to mean fasting probably because of Is 58:5

- 2) But the law considered doing no w\_\_\_\_\_ as humbling or afflicting yourself (Lev 23:32).
2. Why was Jesus, His disciples, tax-collectors, and sinners feasting on this day?
  - a. They were celebrating who Jesus was – the S\_\_\_\_\_ who came to call sinners to repentance.
  - b. He would eventually become the one sacrifice for the people of God who would a\_\_\_\_\_ for all sins for all time.

● Application to our traditions

1. M\_\_\_\_\_ times
2. Order of S\_\_\_\_\_
3. Church p\_\_\_\_\_
4. Lesson plans

**Abandon tradition that is anti-\_\_\_\_\_**

● Some Jews practiced a 12-hour fast \_\_\_\_\_ per week as a means of drawing c\_\_\_\_\_ to God.

1. God f\_\_\_\_\_ on fasting as a means of spirituality (Is 58:3-6; Jer 14:12)
2. The fasting recorded in the Bible were usually a response to an e\_\_\_\_\_ circumstance, not a regular practice.
  - a. D\_\_\_\_\_ fasted because his newborn son was dying (2 Sam 12:16-23).
  - b. M\_\_\_\_\_ fasted 40 days and nights before God who was in a form that caused everyone to tremble (Ex 34:28).
  - c. E\_\_\_\_\_ called for a 3-day fast because they (the Jews) were facing almost certain destruction (Esth 4:16).

● Jesus uses two illustrations to show the destructive nature of tradition when it becomes THE standard of a\_\_\_\_\_.

1. The illustration of worn-out clothing (v. 16)
  - a. Old clothing has s\_\_\_\_\_ due to it being washed and dried several times.
  - b. No one patches old clothing with new (unshrunk) material because when the patch shrinks it will pull on the threads and a w\_\_\_\_\_ tear will result.
2. The illustration of wineskins (v. 17)
  - a. Terminology
    - 1) Old wine has been f\_\_\_\_\_; new wine has not.

- 2) Wineskins are “bottles” made out of a \_\_\_\_\_ skin used to contain wine.
- b. The process
  - 1) New wine is poured into an unused wineskin and sealed to undergo fermenting which takes several \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) The fermentation process causes the wineskin to e\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) The wineskins lose their e\_\_\_\_\_ in this fermentation process.
- c. No one puts an old wineskin through the fermentation process again, otherwise it will b\_\_\_\_\_, destroying the wineskin and wasting the wine.

●Application

1. Wrong application – just because a religious practice is not in the Bible does not mean it is wrong to practice it.
  - a. C\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Good F\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The annual celebration of the r\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ
2. Right application – abandon practices that go against biblical authority.
  - a. E\_\_\_\_\_ is a spring goddess and should not be a description of the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. You would object if I called it Baal or Allah.
  - b. Making sure baptismal candidates are really s\_\_\_\_\_ before baptizing them is anti-biblical. Baptism is a statement of one’s commitment to live Christ’s way (Rom 6:4).