

Intro: Managing Change in our life is one of the most difficult things we have to do.
Especially difficult when God is changing the way He has been working in our life!
Sermon on my desk I never preached: Elijah: What do you do when the stream dries up!
Elijah is RIGHT where he is supposed to be...yet God changes everything!
That is the issue Jesus is talking about in Luke 5:35-39:
How Do Respond To Spiritual Change in Your Life?
Because MOST of us...find a pattern that works for us (rut) stay there until we HAVE to move!

Luke 5:33-39 Page 728

1. The Question: Jesus Why Aren't You Doing What Has Been Working All Along? Vs 33
The Pharisees were upset that Jesus didn't "follow the program" of spiritual activity!
They had a "system" and they expected that because it had worked...it should STILL work!

APP: We do the same thing!
We tend to develop a "system" in our spiritual life...a routine...or a RUT! And follow that!
We assume that because it has always worked...that is the right thing for us...and others...and always be that way

Their question was: WHY HAVE YOU CHANGED THE SYSTEM!

- It has been working for us
- It has been working for John Baptist
- WHY aren't you "getting with the program"...and doing what is OBVIOUSLY the right thing!

2. Jesus Reply: Because God Has Changed The Program! Vs 34-35

Now, he phrased it in a way that they had to think about it...in order it "get" it
But, what Jesus is saying here is: You were waiting for a Messiah. Everything you do points toward Him
Now I'm Here! So, since I'm here...Everything needs to change!
As Long as I'm here with you...celebrate...that will pass soon enough

3. 4 Lessons On Spiritual Change: Vs 36-39

These are given in the form of a parable...A story that communicates spiritual truth
When Jesus gives us that, He almost always gives us the MEANING as well...He does that here!

- New and Old Spiritual Practices don't usually peacefully co-exist! *"no one tears a patch"*
This was a major battle in the NT church:
Do you have to be an OT Jew in order to become a follower of Jesus? NO
Applic: When God is doing something NEW in your life...You can seldom "patch" it to the old
When God is doing something NEW...we have to be willing to release the old
Yes it worked, Yes it was meaningful, Yes it was a good thing...but when God does new things: Release
- If you try to patch the two together you usually ruin both! *"torn new, will not match old"*
You can't make OT (Law) and NT (Grace) peacefully co-exist: Mutually exclusive!
Applic: Remember when I got to a funeral...Used the NIV to read the 23rd Psalm
About halfway through...I could feel the confusion!!!
Afterwards...someone spoke to me and asked...which one are you using?
When God starts a NEW work in your life...be willing to release the OLD: Some may stay...often not
- A new work of God in your life usually means a new approach on your part to walking with Him.
"No one pours new wine into old wineskins"
What we often want to do is hold on to the old!
It has been significant to us; Spiritually meaning to us; Carried us closer to God; Helpful for our growth
BUT: If we try to "make them fit" we stand a real risk of losing them both!
~Wine will burst the skin: Our old routine will be ruined and lost
~Wine run out: New routine will be lost
~Both are destroyed
- We need to develop an openness to a new spiritual norm in our life...while not destroying the old!
You can keep some parts
You have to be willing though to release some things...and to embrace others!
APPLIC: What NEW thing does God want to do in your life?

- **Most of us tend to RESIST Spiritual Change**

Study change management:

ICE is a great example:

Ice is formed into a shape: How can you CHANGE that shape?

1. Slowly: Ice is melted ... slow gradual process; Water Poured into new mold, Frozen: Holds it's shape

2. Quickly: Hammer: Break tiny slivers and pieces, pack it in mold, hammer it flat! New shape!

Here is the reality of Spiritual change:

When God wants to do something NEW in your life...He will do it

And remember Cool Hand Luke?

"We can do this the easy way...or we can do this the hard way!"

The Pharisees...they went for the hard way. They refused to change: Even in the face of miracles, teaching, presence of God

CONCL: How do you respond when God wants to do something new in your life?

He always does it for you best:

Encourage you, Be open to what God wants to do

Don't fight it

Allow your "method" to be changed if God wants to Change it

Go the easy route...Not the hard one!

Pray: Father, help us be open to any new thing you want to do in our spiritual life.

Right now we give you permission to do whatever you want to do!

Mold us, change us, rearrange us...so that we are walking with you every single day.